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Japan

Miyazawa To Watch EC, U.S. Farm Talks

OW0801123393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has indicated that he will wait and see for the time being how the negotiations on the Uruguay Round of talks between the United States and the European Community [EC] progress. This remark was made at a meeting with Masahiko Komura, chairman of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Committee in the House of Representatives who recently visited Geneva to urge GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel not to apply rice tariffication. Miyazawa said Japan should keep a close eye on the progress of the negotiations on agricultural and services trade between the United States and EC.

GATT Settlement Not 'Likely' Under Bush

OW0801131493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—No settlement of the Uruguay Round of global trade talks is likely under the administration of U.S. President George Bush, which ends in two weeks, sources close to the negotiations said Friday.

The negotiations aimed at freer world trade resumed in Geneva Friday with informal discussions among major participating nations on the thorny farm issue.

Reports from Geneva said officials from 23 member nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) reviewed the contents of the latest U.S.-European Community (EC) accord on farm trade in a meeting at the GATT headquarters.

It was the year's first Uruguay Round session attended by major participating nations.

A successful conclusion of the seven-year-old negotiations, which began in Uruguay in 1986 under the auspices of GATT, depends largely on bargaining between the United States and the European Community (EC) over farm and other key issues.

The sources said it is almost hopeless that the negotiations will be concluded before President-elect Bill Clinton takes over from Bush on January 20.

U.S. sources said, however, the United States and the EC continued trying to clear the last remaining hurdles, such as replacing farm trade barriers with tariffs.

Clinton is expected to retain key negotiators appointed by Bush after he takes office in an effort to bring about an early settlement of the negotiations, the sources said.

Japanese officials expressed concern that the negotiations may drag on further as Japan, the United States, and Europe are now faced with a host of new problems, such as a lowering of tariffs on mining and industrial goods and the liberalization of trade in farm products, such as rice.

Ceiling on Car Exports to U.S. To Remain

OW0801020393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0131 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan will keep its voluntary restraint on car exports to the United States unchanged at 1.65 million vehicles for fiscal 1993 starting April 1, government sources said Friday.

International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori will announce the decision at a news conference later in the day, the sources said.

They said the decision to maintain the export regulation came in light of Japan's growing trade surplus with the U.S. cars account for much of the overall U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

The decision also reflects a recovery of the U.S. auto market, they said.

The export quota, first imposed at 1.68 million units in fiscal 1981 and then raised to 2.30 million in fiscal 1985, was lowered to the current 1.65 million in fiscal 1992 amid a slump in sales by the big three U.S. automakers.

Auto Industry Accepts Ceiling

OW0801051393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0445 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The Japanese automobile industry on Friday reluctantly accepted a government decision to continue its restraint on car exports to the United States in fiscal 1993.

"It was probably an inevitable choice for the government," said an official of a major automobile maker.

The government said it will retain the ceiling on Japanese car shipments to the United States at 1.65 million vehicles for the fiscal year starting April 1, unchanged from the current year.

"It would be difficult for Japanese automakers to increase their shipments to the U.S. market given the present state of Japan-U.S. relations," the official added.

Officials of other automobile companies criticized the government's decision, claiming the step means the continuation of controlled trade.

Industry sources said Japanese automakers will now shift their attention to negotiations with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on allocations of the export quota.

U.S. Rocket, Helicopter Deal Announced

OW0801091593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan and the United States on Friday concluded a deal under which Japan will acquire or produce under license multiple launch rocket systems and rescue helicopters, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

Diplomatic notes were exchanged between Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost.

Officials said the American surface-to-surface rocket systems will be acquired by the Ground Self-Defense Force in line with the Defense Agency's current midterm defense buildup plan.

They said the UH-60J helicopters would be used by both the Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Air Self-Defense Force.

Officials said that while the rockets would be imported from the U.S., the rocket launchers would be partially produced under license in Japan, most likely by Nissan Motor Co.

The helicopters would be produced under license by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, with some components being imported from the U.S., they said.

Miyazawa Meets With ASEAN Ambassadors

OW0701131993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa met the ambassadors of the six ASEAN countries Thursday in preparation of a Southeast Asian swing starting next Monday, officials said.

Miyazawa reportedly asked his counterparts to put forward pending bilateral problems and assess the present political situation in the Asia-Pacific area from their regional angle.

He said he wants to discuss security matters of common interest and the necessity of economic development open to other regions in the summit talks with the leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

Singapore and the Philippines, which are also ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members, are not on Miyazawa's itinerary. Philippine President Fidel Ramos is expected to visit Japan in mid-March.

Miyazawa promised Japan would do its utmost to help the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) fulfill its mission to hold general elections in May as scheduled and to secure lasting peace for the war-torn country.

Miyazawa said Tokyo considers cooperation with all ASEAN nations very important.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said in a Thursday interview with a commercial TV station that the prime minister has decided to send Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motoji Kondo on a short excursion from Thailand to visit Japanese peacekeepers stationed in Takeo, 40 kilometers southwest of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

According to Kono, Miyazawa "wants very much to give the soldiers his appreciation and encourage them" but said the timing as well as flight arrangement are still under way.

He said due to Miyazawa's tight schedule the prime minister has decided to dispatch Kondo, who accompanies Miyazawa on his one-week trip, to Takeo "in the name of the prime minister."

He said Kondo is to make the trip January 16, the day when Miyazawa is scheduled to deliver a major policy speech on Japan's Asian policy in Bangkok.

Miyazawa is to return to Tokyo on January 18.

Miyazawa To Offer Aid Program on Asian Tour

OW0801084093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa begins an eight-day visit to four members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Monday, bearing a proposal for a new type of aid program, government sources said Friday.

Miyazawa will propose to the leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei that Japan and ASEAN cooperate in building up social infrastructure in the region, the sources said.

The proposed cooperation program is a new type of assistance which requires Japan and the ASEAN members to jointly construct infrastructures such as transportation networks stretching over more than one nation, according to the sources.

Miyazawa favors promoting such a multilateral program as a supplement to Japan's unilateral aid to each member of ASEAN, which also includes the Philippines and Singapore, the sources said.

The prime minister regards ASEAN as being poised to play a leading role in the world's economy in the 21st century, so Japan should not confine itself to conventional bilateral aid programs toward those nations, the sources said.

If the program is realized, a plan to build new traffic networks between Thailand and Vietnam is likely to be designated as the first project, the sources said.

Tokyo Opposes Lifting of B-H Arms Embargo

OW0801134993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will express Japan's opposition to the lifting of an arms embargo against Bosnia-Hercegovina [B-H] when he visits Europe next week, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Watanabe will leave Japan on Monday for an eight-day trip to France, Belgium, and Spain.

The officials said Watanabe will tell his European counterparts that Japan—a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council—will vote against a relevant U.N. resolution put forward by Islamic countries.

The U.N. arms embargo on then still-united Yugoslavia was imposed September 25, 1991.

According to the officials, Watanabe will urge caution concerning a resolution proposed by the United States to allow the shooting down of Serbian military aircraft violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Hercegovina. The officials said Japan fears such a decision might further spread the war in former Yugoslavia if Serbia intensifies its attacks against Bosnia-Hercegovina in retaliation.

The no-fly zone for warplanes, which was imposed to guarantee the security of emergency transports of food and medicine to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and to other parts of the besieged republic, has been frequently violated by Serbian fighters.

Watanabe will express Tokyo's intention to participate in the creation of a peaceful world order after the end of the cold war and solution of the Yugoslav conflict, which is widely seen as a "test case" for the U.N., according to the officials.

Watanabe is scheduled to arrive in Paris on Tuesday and meet the same day with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Jean-Claude Paye, secretary general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In Paris, he may meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, the officials said.

Watanabe will leave Paris on Thursday for Brussels, where he will meet with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes and European Community (EC) President Jacques Delors.

Watanabe will go to Madrid on January 15 for a working dinner with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariage. He will return home January 18.

Miyazawa Not To Attend ROK Inauguration

OW0801124093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said it would be difficult for him to attend the inaugural ceremony for South Korea's new president scheduled for 25 February. This remark was made at a meeting with Mutsuki Kato, secretary general of the Japanese-South Korean Parliamentarians League and former policy research council chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party. Mr. Kato is to visit South Korea beginning 11 January and talk with President-elect Kim Yong-sam. Miyazawa asked Mr. Kato to tell Kim Yong-sam that he was sorry but he could not attend the inauguration because it would be in the middle of Japan's Diet sessison. The prime minister said he would send a most appropriate person in his place.

Tokyo 'Plans To Reopen' Talks With DPRK

SK0801021893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0207 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Tokyo plans to reopen diplomatic normalization talks with Pyongyang in late April, judging that North Korea clearly showed its interest in dialogue with Japan in its new year address, the SANKEI SHIMBUN reported Friday.

Tokyo had understood North Korean leader Kim Il-song's New Year address as Pyongyang's changing, more active pursuit of dialogue with Japan and the United States and so had decided to reopen the normalization talks, the SANKEI said.

It chose late April to wait until after the South Korea-U.S. joint military maneuver "Team Spirit" at the end of February, during which North Korea refuses any dialogue, according to the paper.

Tokyo is to propose reopening of the talks sometime in March, it said.

But the Japanese Foreign Ministry has no intention to give up pressing North Korea about Yi Eun-hye, a woman allegedly abducted to Pyongyang and used as language trainer for espionage agents, leaving it as the key to how the talks will progress, it said.

The last round of normalization talks, in Beijing in November, broke up when Tokyo demanded explanations about Yi.

Kim Hyon-hui, a North Korean saboteur who blew up a South Korean jetliner over Rangoon in 1987, identified Yi as the woman who trained her in Japanese in Pyongyang.

Pyongyang walked out of the November talks when Tokyo raised the Yi question.

Matsushita Plans Shanghai Microchip Venture

OW0801083293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 8 KYODO—Matsushita Electronics Corp. will form a joint venture in Shanghai this year to produce advanced microchips like integrated circuits for videos, company officials said Friday.

The planned venture, with one of the state-run electronics makers based in Shanghai, will open next year and it will concentrate on assembling integrated circuit wafers imported from Japan for the time being.

The officials said the project is aimed at promoting China's efforts to increase its exports of consumer electronics using microchips.

They said the quality of Chinese labor is high enough to manufacture the chips, which require highly sophisticated processing technology and the ability to keep factories extremely clean.

The products manufactured at the planned Shanghai venture will be marketed to local buyers along with television picture tubes the company's other partnership in Beijing is producing, they said.

Firm To Open Shanghai Fast-Food Restaurant

OW0801092293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan's First Kitchen Co. disclosed plans Friday to open a fast-food restaurant in Shanghai on January 19.

First Kitchen, the wholly owned subsidiary of the leading distiller and brewery Suntory Ltd., said the restaurant will offer hamburgers, fried chicken and other food under a franchise contract with China's Shanghai Jin Yuan Food Co.

The 100-seat restaurant is on a busy street in Shanghai and is expected to record 100 million yen in sales in the initial year, company officials said.

Tanabu Proposes International Food Aid Fund

OW0801051493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0404 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan's Agriculture Minister Masami Tanabu proposed Friday an international food aid fund to help countries faced with severe food shortages.

Tanabu, speaking at a press conference, said he intends to bring the proposal to European Community (EC) leaders when he visits Europe in mid-January.

Tanabu said the proposed fund should be financed by rich countries with the aim of providing needy countries with food free of charge.

"It's important to think of how we can establish a system under which people throughout the world can live without fear of food shortages," Tanabu said.

Tanabu is to visit Brussels from January 12 for Japan-EC ministerial talks. He is also scheduled to meet the EC's new top agriculture official, Rene Steichen [spelling of name as received], to discuss agricultural issues.

Tanabu said he would like to know the latest EC view of the progress made so far in global free trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

With a farm subsidy dispute settled between the United States and the EC, Washington and Brussels are pressing Japan to accept a key proposal in the GATT talks to replace nontariff barriers, such as Japan's ban on rice imports, with tariffs.

Japan still opposes the tariffication proposal, saying it needs the import ban to maintain self-sufficiency in rice, the nation's staple food.

Miyazawa Comments on New SDPJ Chairman

OW0801090593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa commented on the election of Mr. Yamahana as the new chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] as follows:

[Begin Miyazawa recording] He is a very sincere person and studies hard. When Mr. Yamahana [speaks] he raises sharp questions. He was a right-hand man of his predecessor Makoto Tanabe who took a realistic line. I hope Mr. Yamahana will do a good job as the leader of the No. 1 opposition party. [end recording]

Also, Seiroku Kajiyama, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], said he hopes that Mr. Yamahana will exercise leadership to transform the SDPJ into a more pragmatic party. He said the LDP hopes to deal with the urgent political agenda by carrying on the dialogue according to the rules of perliamentary politics.

Opposition Leaders React to Yamahana Election

OW0801133293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From the "News" program]

[Text] Opposition Party chairmen have made the following public statements. [NHK anchorman Yoshiaki Kawabata reads the statements while showing photographs of the opposition leaders on the screen.]

Komeito Chairman, Ishida said: I hope that the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], as the largest opposition party, will lead political debate and open a new chapter in Japan's politics. Now that the people expect to see major changes in Japanese politics, I hope that the party will play its role in political reform.

Chairman of Japan Communist Party, Fuwa said: The SDPJ has become incapable of taking innovative steps because it has not been sufficiently critical of the politics of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. Mr. Yamahana's public pledge indicates that the party is negative about the issues, including the matter of the Constitution. We want to watch carefully his future moves.

Chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, Ouchi said: The SDPJ should bear down on the current social and political situation if it wants to change to a party capable of governing. The people will be very disappointed if Mr. Yamahana cannot control the power struggle within the party. I hope Mr. Yamahana will make a courageous decision to deal with the situation.

Chairman of the United Social Democratic Party [USDP], Eda said: We hope further reform of the SDPJ and fundamental political reform will be made at a stroke. The USDP, which is forming a coalition [with the SDPJ] in the Diet, is determined to make itself understood on every point, and will do our best to achieve a power change and major political reform.

[Begin recording of comments by Chairman of Japanese Private-Sector Trade Union Federation, Yamagishi; place and date not given]

I think the most important job will be to bring the SDPJ to a position where the party can assume political leadership. In order to do so, Mr. Yamahana should review the four basic policies of the SDPJ on the Self-Defense Forces, the Japan-U.S. security treaty, use of atomic energy, and the issue of the two Koreas. [end recording]

Yamahana Urges Forming Coalition Government

OW0701122093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana, newly nominated chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the nation's largest opposition party, said Thursday the party will seek to form a coalition government of parties that can agree on electoral system reforms.

Yamahana said in an interview with KYODO News Service that the biggest goal in politics is to break the current one-party rule of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

He said the SDP should start by determining to become totally reformist and then appeal to other reformists and liberals to form the coalition government.

Yamahana, 56, also said the SDP would oppose the LDP-proposed single-seat constituency system for the House of Representatives and would propose its own plan based on proportional representation.

The SDP's role, he said, is to work so that other opposition parties do not go separate ways concerning electoral system reform.

Yamahana also said he will start deliberating on the new SDP executive lineup as early as the beginning of next week.

On Wednesday, Yamahana, the SDP secretary general, was nominated to succeed outgoing party Chairman Makoto Tanabe. [passage omitted]

Hata Hints at Launching New Political Party

OW0801113393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, the head of a new faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), hinted Friday he may launch a new political party around the next general election, party sources said.

Hata made the indication in a 40-minute meeting with Akira Yamagishi, leader of Japan's largest labor organization the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), at Rengo's headquarters, the sources said.

Hata was quoted as saying he has no intention to immediately break up the LDP, but hinted at the possibility of forming a new party, saying "it is possible, for example, sometime before or after the next general election." The election is expected to be held sometime this year.

In December, Hata and Ichiro Ozawa, former LDP secretary general, led 44 LDP members to break away from the party's largest faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi also split from the Takeshita faction with the remaining 62 members.

In Friday's meeting, Hata said the midsize constituency system should be drastically reformed, and added the LDP is ready to discuss the matter "flexibly to gain public consent," the sources said. The LDP, however, has already proposed a simple, small constituency system, according to the sources.

Yamagishi reportedly told Hata he agrees on revising the existing constituency system but said he does not support the counterproposal.

Diet Session Scheduled for 22 Jan-20 Jun

OW0801050593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The government formally decided Friday to convene the 150-day ordinary Diet session on January 22. The session is set to end on June 20.

The government made the decision in a cabinet meeting amid a clamor for political reform over a money-and-mobster scandal involving politicians.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reaffirmed his determination Friday to push ahead with the reform, which will focus on shifting to single-seat from multiseat constituencies in the House of Representatives.

Miyazawa on Thursday pledged to recover public trust by reshaping Japan's political system. He called it the "biggest task of today's politics."

An advisory panel to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will work on how to legislate a list of political reforms compiled by another advisory body last month, officials said.

The measures include ways of controlling political donations and reshaping the electoral system based on single-seat constituencies in the lower house, the officials said.

The government will submit a bill on political reforms after the Diet passes the fiscal 1993 national budget at the end of March, the officials said.

The panel will probably meet about every other week so that by the end of March the government will be able to submit the legislation.

Expected Effects of Prince's Marriage Viewed

OW0701150293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 7 KYODO—Crown Prince Naruhito's expected marriage to Masako Owada is likely to boost Japan's economic growth rate by an extra 0.8 percent in fiscal 1993, which begins next April 1, a private think tank predicted Thursday.

The NLI Research Institute, an affiliate of Nippon Life Insurance Co., also said in a report that the event will produce up to 3.3 trillion yen in extra goods and services in Japan.

The event is likely to cause a marriage boom in Japan, stimulate housing purchases and consumer spending, and even help bolster the sagging stock market, NLI forecast.

It noted the 1959 marriage of then Crown Prince Akihito, now the emperor, boosted consumer spending by 1.4 percent.

The issue of commemorative coins also could cause an increase in Japan's gold imports and help reduce its huge trade surplus, NLI said.

It said, however, the imperial marriage will not be enough to put the faltering economy back on its feet.

To promote economic recovery, interest rates should be cut, public works spending should be increased and income tax cuts should be implemented, NLI said.

Hayashi Denies Reports of Income Tax Cuts

OW0801041593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0314 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi Friday denied reports that the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are considering an income tax cut by returning part of already collected taxes to taxpayers to stimulate slumbering consumer confidence.

Hayashi, speaking at a regular news conference after a cabinet meeting, said there is no necessity for such a tax reduction, and he questioned its effectiveness.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, a major financial daily, reported Friday morning that the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) are considering approving a 2 trillion yen tax reduction package and making up the revenue shortage by floating debt-financing bonds.

The paper said the measure could be approved as early as June, before an economic summit of Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations to be held in Tokyo in July.

But the finance minister said the government's current priority is to obtain the Diet's approval of the fiscal 1993 budget which begins April 1 as a measure of shoring up the sluggish economy.

The cabinet Friday decided to convene a regular Diet session on January 22.

Hayashi said the government and LDP tax research panels have not changed their positions which do not advocate income tax reduction plans last month.

Regarding weak Tokyo stock prices, Hayashi remained optimistic and said the ministry will carefully monitor the market carefully. He added whether or not the bank of Japan cuts the official discount rate is a matter to be decided by the central bank.

The benchmark Nikkei Stock Average of 225 selected issues lost 25.89 points to 16,755.09 Friday morning following a slight setback on Thursday, despite hopes that the crown prince's engagement will enliven investors' sentiments.

Panel Urges Greater Farm Land 'Liquidity'

OW0801143493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japan should give more active fiscal support to raising the liquidity of farm land, encouraging mountain area farmland owners to concentrate land in the hands of active farmers and to facilitating corporate farm management, according to the draft of a panel report obtained Friday by KYODO News Service.

The Agriculture Policy Council, an advisory panel to the prime minister, said in an interim report that the measures are necessary to strenghten the agricultural sector now that the farming population is aging and the number of young farmers is declining.

Also prompting the panel is the expected opening of Japan's rice market and cutbacks in farm subsidies.

The interim report mapped out specific goals and measures for the policy drafted last June by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Given the report, the ministry will draft necessary bills to submit to the next ordinary Diet session, opening January 22.

The panel said that from 1.4 million hectares to 2.1 million hectares of farmland should be allowed to change hands in the next 10 years, about two to three times that in the past 10 years.

That is about 30 percent of the existing 5.3 million hectares of Japanese farmland.

As for farmland in mountain areas where expansion is difficult, the panel proposed that the government help farmers produce profitable vegetables and other products that suit their regions.

If the introduction of new crops turns out to be fruitless and farm income is lower than planned, the government should extend low interest loans to farmers, the panel said.

The panel proposed such new aid methods since income subsidies like those given to farmers in unproductive regions in some European countries are not acceptable in Japan.

The panel also proposed relaxing restrictions on establishing companies to produce farm products, and called for more corporate-style farm management.

Mazda Develops High Performance Electric Car

OW0801083193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—Major Japanese automaker Mazda Motor Corp. said Friday it has delivered a high performance electric car to Chugoku Electric Power Co.

The Hiroshima-based company said the vehicle has been under development jointly with Chugoku electric since January last year in response to growing calls for environment-friendly vehicles.

The two-seat vehicle, with a maximum speed of 130 kilometers per hour, can cruise a distance of 180 kilometers without having to recharge the battery, the company said.

The company said it plans to deliver an additional two electric cars to the power firm by the end of this year.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry Denounces Japanese Plutonium Shipment

SK0801105193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 8 Jan 93

["Foreign Ministry Spokesman Denounces Sea Transport of Plutonium by Japan"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement on January 8 on the transport of plutonium by the Japanese ship "Akatsuki-Maru".

He says:

The Japanese authorities forced the sea transport of plutonium, defying the deep apprehensions and strong denunciation worldwide. This is an intolerable challenge to the world people who oppose nuclear weapons and desire peace and a threat to world peace. This indicates that the scheme of Japan for her nuclear armament has reached a very grave stage.

The spokesman continues:

For the Japanese authorities to introduce and stockpile by adventurous means a large amount of plutonium enough to make a hundred and several dozen atomic bombs poses a new threat to the peace and security of Asia. Especially, we cannot but take a serious view of this, being a neighbour of Japan and a direct victim to Japanese imperialists' aggression.

It must not be overlooked here that when the ship "Akatsuki-Maru" arrived in Japan, the Japanese authority, like a thief crying "stop thief!", had the effrontery to groundlessly slander the DPRK, alleging that this nuclear material might be stolen by someone.

This fully revealed the ulterior intention of the Japanese authorities to equip Japan with nuclear arms and turn it into a nuclear power by continuing the introduction of plutonium under every conceivable pretext.

This also proves that they have persistently slandered the DPRK, raising outcries over "suspicion of nuclear arms development" and "nuclear development program", in a bid to divert the world attention elsewhere and cover up their design for nuclear armament.

The Japanese Government must no more do such a despicable act but stop their reckless moves of nuclear armament going against the unanimous demand and desire of the world peaceloving people.

Demonstrations at Japanese Embassy

SK0801112693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Yi Hyo-chae, representative of the council for measures on the question of the "volunteer corps", the representative of the coalition of the movement against pollution and others staged a demonstration on January 6 in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul in protest against the introduction of plutonium by Japan.

In a statement they charged that Japan was shipping in large quantities of plutonium for nuclear armament under the pretext of self-sufficiency in energy.

They urged Japan to promptly stop the massive introduction of plutonium which disturbs peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Japanese Military Spending Criticized

SK0701051593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 7 Jan 93

["Conversion of Japan Into Military Power Intended for Overseas Aggression"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government decided to purchase out of the government budget for this year two AWACS which had once participated in an invasion of other country and alloted 4,640.6 billion yen in military appropriations, which is greater than last year's, according to a report.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

The Japanese Government authorities have declared quite often that Japan would remain a "peaceful state" and does not seek to be a military power. But facts prove the contrary.

Many countries of the world are now slashing military spendings. But Japan continues increasing them. The "Self-Defence Forces" of Japan surpass the old "Imperial Army" scores of times in fire power and are ready to carry out any modern war.

Yet Japan is increasing military expenditures while introducing uptodate military equipment. Why? What Japan seeks in promoting her conversion into a military power is to gratify her wild ambition for overseas aggression, her old dream, through the road of overseas dispatch of the "self-defence forces" which has been opened.

This scheme of Japan is all the more dangerous because it may, in the long run, spell a nuclear holocaust to mankind.

A way out for Japan is not to become a military power but to seek peace. Japan must be mindful of this and give up the scheme to become a military power.

South Supporting Japanese Armament

SK0701044493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities stated on January 5 that it is "a hasty judgement" to regard Japan's import of plutonium as intended for nuclear armament and that they do not think there is a possibility of Japan's nuclear armament in the near future, South Korean radio No. 1 reported.

This statement which coincided with the arrival of the ship "Akatsuki-maru" carrying a large amount of plutonium at Tokai port, Japan, is an open defense of Japan's nuclear armament.

The Japanese reactionary authorities' criminal shipment of a large quantity of plutonium has invited strong protest from broad public opinion around the world.

Nonetheless, the South Korean authorities are openly protecting Japan's move for nuclear armament, challenging the unbiased public opinion of South Korea and the world.

In February last year, the South Korean authorities refused to accept the North side's proposal for North-South joint action against Japan's nuclear armament and, meanly enough, "officially notified" the Japanese authorities of this refusal in the name of the "government."

Facts clearly show the South Korean authorities are a group of out-and-out pro-Japanese flunkeyist traitors.

KCNA: NODONG SINMUN 'Welcomes' START II Signing

SK0801050293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 8 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Welcomes START II Signed Between Russia and U.S."—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today welcomes the START II signed between Russia and the United States a few days ago.

The signed commentary headlined "Nuclear Arms Must Be Removed Totally" says:

Either in view of the trend of the times toward disarmament or in view of the demand of the new international situation after the collapse of the East-West cold war structure and the end of nuclear confrontation between superpowers, it is natural and fortunate that the START II was signed between Russia and the United States.

Nuclear arms are a leftover of the cold war era. All the nuclear weapons must be removed in order to prevent nuclear war and preserve world peace and security.

The signing of the START II can be said to be part of nuclear disarmament. What is more important is that the treaty should be implemented faithfully and lead to a total nuclear disarmament. The primary question here is to begin nuclear arms cut and denuclearization in the region fraught with the greatest danger of nuclear war. The Korean peninsula is the very region.

To remove all nuclear weapons and bases on the Korean peninsula and denuclearize it is a prerequisite and indispensable demand to avert a thermonuclear war in the world. The key point here is to dismantle the nuclear bases and remove the nuclear equipment in South Korea.

Anyone who really wants nuclear disarmament and peace should pay attention to the removal of nuclear threat and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula and make a positive contribution to it.

Pyongyang Radio Criticizes Kim Yong-sam's 'Unreasonable Remarks'

SK0701032993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "An Indiscreet Measure"]

[Text] Near the end of the year, South Korean President-elect Kim Yong-sam let loose unreasonable remarks which provoked us.

On 28 December last year, at the news conference held in the Christian General Association in South Korea, he said that when a new government is launched, he will formally put forward the issue of the North-South mutual nuclear inspection to the four neighbor powers and to the UN Security Council. He raved there that if the North persistently refuses to accept mutual nuclear inspection, he will realize the North-South mutual nuclear inspection even through the UN Security Council's force.

On 30 December last year, he visited a puppet army unit situated on the western front. He said that the precautions against a surprise southward invasion should be strengthened, inspiring the Army to incite war fever.

In a so-called New Year address on 1 January, while raving that someone else should be considered, he said that only when someone else shows his intention to join in reform and openness, then he will help him. At a news conference held on the same day, he said that the North's nuclear issue should be resolved first, then he will press ahead with economic cooperation.

Kim Yong-sam is unreasonably making vicious remarks against us before he is inaugurated, and is letting loose anti-Republic ridiculous remarks which aggravate confrontation between the North and the South. This shows that he has no intention of seeking national reconciliation and unity and that he clings more to anticommunist maneuvers than his predecessors. We can never overlook this.

The issues that he links with us are the brazen-faced distortion of reality and the reverse of white and black. The issues are also unreasonable and ridiculous.

As for the nuclear issue, as we have repeatedly declared, we do not have a nuclear weapon nor do we make one. In addition, it is unnecessary for us to make it. The integrity of our nuclear policy has been clearly confirmed through the International Atomic Nuclear Agency's inspections five times. In addition, we have assumed the position to conduct a fair North-South nuclear inspection as soon as possible, and we have not spared sincere efforts to realize the inspection. This is a well-known fact.

The point is that the South Korean authorities have not accepted an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea; that they are secretly accelerating the development of nuclear weapons; and that they are delaying accepting the inspection regulations and the North-South inspection on the ground of an unjust demand.

Like a thief calling another a thief, Kim Yong-sam referred to our nonexistent nuclear issue. This is aimed at constantly deploying U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea by misleading public opinion at any cost and at bringing about a nuclear policy against his fellow countrymen in collaboration with foreign forces.

Furthermore, he does not think of resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee based on the national independent stand. He is trying to resolve the issue by imposing an unreasonable demand upon us by bringing in foreign forces and by using the strength of foreign forces. This cannot but be a very dangerous sycophant and traitorous intention.

Antinational acts such as denying the principle of national independence, which is the fundamental principle of the fatherland's reunification, and trying to achieve insidious purposes by depending on the strength of outside forces, are by no means tolerable.

He is not saying that he will cancel the provocative Team Spirit nuclear war exercise, which is to attack his fellow countrymen. Rather he is coupling with outside forces and is carrying out scheming propaganda by saying that there may be a surprise attack by someone on the South. This cannot be viewed as a speech and behavior from national consciousness or from a political perception.

It is quite absurd that Kim Yong-sam is making sly remarks by saying that he will help someone and so on. The people suffering in our country today are no where else but in South Korea where there is no independence or democracy. Also the people are moaning because they are suffering from Korean diseases.

In his speeches during the election campaigning, Kim Yong-sam himself said that Korean diseases such as unjustness and corruption in South Korea; close adhesion between the economy and politics; and frustration and loss of self-confidence are prevalent. He stressed that these deep-seated diseases should be cured.

On the occasion of the New Year, people committing suicide occurred in quick succession in South Korea. It brought to the fore the reality of a hell where people cannot live. While disregarding this dark reality, he is pretending to worry about the people in the northern half of the Republic who are enjoying a worthwhile and happy life without knowing about any worries, under the most superior socialist system of our own style, and is making insidious remarks that he will help someone. What else is this but a presumptuous act?

If he has political sense, he should behave himself well. He should throw away the foolish empty dream of trying to collapse the most superior and solid socialist system of our own style through capitalist reform and open policy. It will be appropriate for him to think about how to correctly reform the crooked and rotten reality of South Korea.

For Kim Yong-sam to run amok even though he has not even taken power shows that the so-called civilian-run government is a lie. Therefore it serves as a warning that the future of the Seventh Republic will also be gloomy. People are closely observing Kim Yong-sam's every move. It will be good for Kim Yong-sam to correctly view reality and the trend of the public sentiment, and act with discretion.

Accused of Slandering North

SK0701051393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today condemn Kim Yong-sam, "president-elect" of South Korea, who slandered the North in his "New Year address" and while going round frontline units of the puppet army.

Judging from everything, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says, it is obvious that the new "government" of South Korea will not be a "civilian government" but be the heir to the "sixth republic" which will continue the policy of dependence on outside forces, fascism and North-South confrontation.

The analyst goes on:

Kim Yong-sam tried to vilify the North, urging it to "join in reforms and opening." From an objective point of view, it is South Korea that should carry out reforms.

South Korea is a colony of the United States and a society under fascist dictatorship, as branded by the South Korean people and the world. South Korea must carry out a reform to get rid of U.S. domination and subjugation and achieve independence and a reform to destroy fascist dictatorship and establish democracy.

As far as opening is concerned, South Korea has offered its territory as a nuclear military base of the United States and opened markets and all other things to outside forces, but kept its doors closed to fellow countrymen.

If he had national conscience, he should not have kept mum about this and should have talked about the abolition of physical, judicial and political barriers standing in the way of national reconciliation and reunification.

The South Korean "president-elect" does not have a correct view of nuclear threat and threat of aggression on the Korean peninsula either.

As is known, the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula was caused by the U.S. deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea and has got more serious as South Korea hastened its own development of nuclear arms, following the United States. The main reason why North-South nuclear inspection has not been realized is that the South Korean authorities laid obstacles to the discussion of the rules of nuclear inspection, trying to exclude U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea from the objects of inspection.

Kim Yong-sam did not utter a word about the renunciation of the scheme of the South Korean authorities and the United States to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers, a nuclear war exercise against the North, but raised a hue and cry over "nuclear threat" and "threat of aggression" from the North. This can convince nobody.

Ridiculous enough, he said he would help somebody after taking office.

According to reports, South Korea is weighed down with ten billion dollars of trade deficit and over 50 billion dollars of foreign debts, the economy proving insolvent, let alone independence and democracy. More than 60 percent of the population do not have their own houses. Kim Yong-sam had better mind his own business.

History has witnessed miserable dooms of anti-communist fanatics, notes a MINJU CHOSON analyst, warning that Kim Yong-sam should clearly see the reality and cool his head hot with anti-communist fever.

Daily Urges Acceleration of New Year's Battle

SK0701094693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0013 GMT 6 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 6 January editorial: "Let Us Vigorously Accelerate the New Year's Battle With the Same Spirit That We Displayed During the Fatherland Liberation War"]

[Text] All people across the country, filled with deep gratitude for, and resolve to implement, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address, have thrown themselves into the struggle for its fulfillment.

The important thing in brilliantly carrying out the militant task set forth in the great leader's New Year's address, and thoroughly demonstrating the might of our own style of socialism, is for everyone to embody the indomitable spirit displayed during the stern period of war.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught in his New Year's address: The situation today demands that we wage a continuous, vigorous struggle with the same struggle spirit that our people displayed during the stern period of war.

The new year of 1993 is very significant, marking the 40th anniversary of the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. This victory was a historic event in which our people powerfully showed the entire world their indomitable will and revolutionary spirit of firmly uniting around the party. We should greet the 40th anniversary of the victory with the great honor of victors who have brought forth a revolutionary upswing again in socialist construction. To do so, everyone should renew his revolutionary resolve and work with greater alertness and militancy.

The revolutionary spirit and determination our people and the brave soldiers of the People's Army exhibited during the war are the noble ideological and spiritual assets that we should pass on throughout the period of socialist construction. This revolutionary spirit and determination—consistent with the endless loyalty to the party and leader, the warm love for the fatherland and the people, and the burning hostility against the class enemies, and the unequalled heroism—is the ideological and spiritual source enabling us to carry out successfully any difficult and colossal task in socialist construction.

No matter how great the happiness we enjoy today in the superior socialist system, we should not let ourselves forget the spirit and determination we displayed when we had to cross the burning river shedding warm blood. We should always live and struggle like heroes as we did then.

Today, the imperialists are maneuvering more persistently than ever to isolate and stifle our republic and to obliterate our own style of socialism. To crush the enemy's challenge and offensive, which are accelerated with each passing day, and to defend and adhere to and add further luster to our socialism is the most honorable task for our party and people today.

Today's situation demands that all the people, including our working class, farmers, and intellectuals, display greater revolution-mindedness and militancy. To wage a stubborn struggle with the spirit and determination displayed in the stern period of war—herein lies the true way to crush the enemy's counter-revolutionary offensive with revolutionary offensive and firmly defend the noble gains of the revolution which we won with blood.

The struggle experience we acquired last year in which we overcame all sorts of difficulties and provided ourselves with a strong basis for adding further luster to our own style of socialism clearly shows that when we work with such a spirit and determination, we can carry out any task in the revolution and construction. The most important thing for our functionaries and working people as they advance with the spirit and determination we displayed during the war, is for them to firmly maintain the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality of implementing the revolutionary task given by the party unconditionally and to the end.

During the Fatherland Liberation War, the brave soldiers of our People's Army regarded the supreme commander's orders as the foremost task that can never be left unfulfilled, and carried them out to the end by making themselves human bombs. Unmatched by anything is the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality displayed by the brave fighters of our People's Army, including the heroic fighters of the 1211-Meter Hill, who honorably defended the hill of the fatherland, driving back the enemy attack that was repeated scores of times a day, thus upholding the great leader's order not to surrender even an inch of the soil of the fatherland. Although they have different environments, conditions, and tasks to carry out, our party members and working people should have such a spirit beating in their hearts. All the party members and working people should accept, with the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality, the militant task set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address, and do their best in their struggle to implement them.

All sectors and all units of the national economy should unconditionally fulfill the national economic plan by the day, by the month, by the quarter, and by the indicators, regarding it as an inviolable directive from the party and as a law of the state, and should effect a great upsurge in production from the first battle of the new year. In particular, functionaries and the working people in the coal industry sector, the power industry sector, the metal industry sector, and other major sectors of socialist construction, should fulfill the duties assigned by the party with a strong character that fights bravely any difficulties.

Highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude is an important requirement for us to live and struggle with the same spirit displayed during the arduous days of the Fatherland Liberation War.

That our young republic could humble the pride of the arrogant U.S. imperialists—who considered themselves then to be the strongest in the world—and thus defeat the enemies during the Fatherland Liberation War was not because it had a strong military and economic foundation. Because our people had the firm determination to defend their fatherland with their own strength, firmly trusting only their party and leader, they were able to create a military miracle unprecedented in the history of war.

All party members and the working people should fulfill difficult tasks arising in socialist construction, seeking out more of what is in short supply and manufacturing what is nonexistent, with the same spirit displayed during the Fatherland Liberation War when the production of bullets and shells was accelerated in spite of poor machinery so as to meet the frontline's great demands. We should mobilize and utilize our own natural resources to the maximum and actively search for inner reserves. Thus, we will more firmly build the foundation of our self-reliant national economy.

Now that a firm foundation, that allows us to live by our own strength under any difficult circumstances, has been provided, if we highly display the spirit of self-reliance we will not have to fear the imperialists' pressure and blockade. It is imperative that we cheirsh firm faith in the socialist cause led by our party in order to live and struggle in a revolutionary manner as in the days of the war.

As the great leader taught in his New Year's address, our people will not renounce their revolutionary faith and principle by submitting to threats. They are also a people who will not give up their own road however strong a wind may blow. During the Fatherland Liberation War, our people defended the country in definace of the brutal aggression of the enemies who were superior in number and technology. Today they are honorably defending the banner of socialism by fighting bravely against the imperialists' antisocialist manuevers. This is because they have firm faith in the final victory of our revolution.

All party members and the working people should believe more deeply that as long as there exists the experienced and tested leadership of the party and the leader and as long as there exist the great chuche idea and the most correct revolutionary line, its embodiment, the superior socialist system, our revolutionary cause will be ever-victorious without fail. Thus, they should vigorously advance toward the road designated by the principle of socialism.

We should prevent all sorts of bourgeois ideology and culture from being infiltrated into our society. By doing so, we will enable the whole country to overflow with the sound spirit and mettle for carrying out the revolution and struggle.

In order to lead party members and the working people to live and struggle in a revolutionary manner as they did during the Fatherland Liberation War, it is very important for party organizations at all levels to strengthen organizational and political work. All party organizations should vigorously wage the work of thoroughly explaining and inculcating in party members and the working people the spirit reflected in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address. By doing so, all party organizations at all levels can actively lead party members and the working people to struggle heroically in conformity with the demands of the prevailing situation. Also, they should not only lead party members and the working people not to forget our socialism which has been defended and developed at a tremendous price, but should also actively explain and propagate the feats of the heroic fighters during the Fatherland Liberation War, among party members and the working people, using various forms and methods.

In particular, party organizations at all levels should pay deep attention to leading growing young people to inherit and carry on the fighting spirit of the heroic fighters who devoted their lives for the fatherland. If all functionaries and the working people display a high indomitable revolutionary spirit, as in the days of the war, in response to the militant appeal of the party and the leader, another voice of hurrah will ring loudly in this year's battle.

Consistent Foreign Policy Maintenance Viewed

SK0701123793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 7 Jan 93

["Idea of DPRK Government's Consistent Foreign Policy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address reclarified the foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship consistently maintained by the DPRK Government and taught how to carry it through.

Herein lies the unshakable will of the DPRK Government and the Korean people to defend the socialism of Korea and contribute to the cause of making the whole world independent, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article.

The article goes on:

Independence, peace and friendship are the main idea of the foreign policy consistently maintained by the DPRK Government.

The DPRK Government raised it as a preferential demand of external activities to defend the sovereignty of the country, the socialist system and the dignity of the nation against all sorts of domination and subjugation and is embodying it thoroughly.

The DPRK Government independently decides all its external activity in conformity with the specific reality of our country and the interests of our people and conducts it according to its independent judgement and view. The DPRK Government develops friendly and cooperative relations with other countries on the principles of mutual respect for independence and complete equality and solves all the matters in international relations in the interests of our revolution.

The DPRK Government resolutely opposes the imperialists' policy of confrontation of strength and policy of aggression and war and invariably calls for stop to arms buildup, dissolution of military blocs, dismantlement of foreign military bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops and demands the establishment of nuclear-free, peace zones in different parts of the world, ban of the test, production, storage and use of nuclear weapons in all parts of the world and the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons.

The DPRK Government pays primary attention to developing friendly relations with the peoples of the socialist countries and non-aligned countries and progressive peoples of the world, while establishing friendly relations and developing economic and cultural exchange with those capitalist countries which are friendly to our country and, in particular, directs due attention to developing friendly relations with those Asian countries which are geographically near to our country.

The idea of independence, peace and friendship is a noble idea common to humankind which helps the world people to realy contribute to the cause of making the whole world independent.

The DPRK Government will hold fast to independence in any complex situation, remain faithful to the revolutionary principles and international duty and actively contribute to the cause of making the whole world independent by invariably holding high the banner of independence, peace and friendship.

Kim Chong-il's Birthday Tables Appreciated

SK0701112493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a 60th birthday table to Prof. and Dr. Kim Tong-in, head of the oceanographic chair of the faculty of geography of Kim Il-song University, who has engaged in education and scientific researches for some 30 years.

Born in Seoul before the liberation of the country as the eldest son of a navvy, he had lived a hard life from childhood.

When Seoul was liberated in 1950 after the outbreak of the Fatherland Liberation War, he joined the Korean People's Army and was admitted into the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] in the battlefield.

After the war he, under the loving care of the WPK, studied at Kim Il-song University on a scholarship and, after graduating from the university, became a teacher, head of a chair, professor and doctor.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent a 60th birthday table to Yim Un-ki who has worked for many years as secretary of the primary party committee of the Kaesong textile mill.

She was also awarded a high-class order of the nation. She said: The bosom of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the benevolent bosom of the sun without which our people cannot live a moment.

Rallies on 40th Anniversary of War Victory

SK0701050693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—South Pyongan, South Hamgyong and Kangwon provincial mass rallies were held to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Fatherland Liberation War with a high degree of political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in labor in hearty response to the New Year address of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

The reporters and speakers at the rallies said the great leader's New Year address is a highly important guideline for exalting down through generations the immortal feats performed by the Workers' Party of Korea in leading the fatherland liberation war to victory and an immortal banner forcefully inspiring the Korean people and the world's revolutionary people in their struggle to smash the enemy's anti-socialist, anti-DPRK moves and accomplish the cause of justice.

They vowed to consolidate the foundations of the independent national economy by putting great efforts into the coal, electrical power, chemical and light industries and agriculture and to build many more dwelling houses in towns and countryside this year.

Stressing the importance of strengthening the unity and cohesion of revolutionary ranks in every way, closely rallied behind the party and the leader, they called upon all the party members and working people to significantly greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War by vigorously fighting on with the indomitable fighting spirit, matchless spirit of devotion and militant mettle displayed in the rigorous days of the war.

Our people will dynamically advance along the road of socialism chosen by themselves under the wise guidance of the great leader and the party, without any vacillation, no matter which way the wind may blow, and thus successfully accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, they stressed.

Resolutions were adopted at the rallies.

U.S.-ROK 'Military Exercises' Detailed

SK0701050293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors Tuesday sent overseas-based nuclear-capable fighter bombers, pursuit-assault planes, electronic jamming planes and early-warning planes to the sky above South Korea to stage large-scale joint military exercises against the North together with the South Korean puppets, according to military sources.

Meanwhile, "U-2" high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, "RC-12", "RF-4c" and other army tactical reconnaissance planes conducted overall espionage against the northern half of Korea.

And formations of "OA-10" and "O-2" observation planes flew low in the skies above Kunwi, Uijongbu, Chunchon, Inje and other operational areas to confirm terrain and targets of strike.

Mobilized in the joint military exercises were some 300 overseas-based military planes and different types of fighter planes of the U.S. Airforce in South Korea and the South Korean puppet airforce.

The U.S. imperialists also introduced "EA-6" electronic jamming planes and "E-3" AWACS into the sky above South Korea from overseas bases of aggression to stage an air military rehearsal, aiming to examine general commanding capacity for a coordinated operation of overseas-based flying corps of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the South Korean puppet airforce and increase the maneuverability of flying corps.

On the same day combatant ships of the puppet army in the east sea off Kangnung launched a military training for infiltration of marine "commandoes" into the coast of the North side under the support of flying corps.

Meanwhile, armed bandits of the puppet army positioned in Nosang-ri and Sogok-ri, Paju county, fired some 1,000 bullets toward the demilitarized zone with large calibre machine guns and automatic rifles.

A total of 680 military planes and 150 naval ships were mobilized in the military exercises Tuesday.

KCNA on 'Joint Air War Exercises'

SK0601044993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets Monday staged joint air war exercises in the skies above Kunwi, Yongwol and Wonju, according to military sources.

The war game involving some 200 fighter planes of various types was aimed at increasing joint strike capabilities of the pacific-based fighter-bombers and assault planes and planes of the U.S. airforce present in South Korea with the puppet airforce planes and capabilities of surprise bombing on the strategic vantage points of the northern half of Korea "in case of emergency".

Warplanes belonging to the U.S. seventh airforce and the puppet airforce, flying above Woeyon islet, Chongju and Chechon that day, staged a war game for establishing air supremacy under different circumstances and conditions.

The U.S. imperialists sent a "U-2" high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane, "RV-1", "RC-12" and three other army tactical reconnaissance planes to commit air espionage on the whole areas of the northern half of Korea.

In another development, the South Korean puppets drove formations of armed helicopters into the skies above Munsanri in Paju County, Kyonggi Province, and Kajonri in Inje County, and Hyonri in Yanggu County, South Korean Kangwon Province to stage an exercise for a missile strike on targets in the frontline area of the North side and an exercise for supporting ground units.

NODONG SINMUN Denounces 'War Execises'

SK0801051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 8 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Denounces War Exercises Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Commenting on the war exercises the South Korean authorities staged with the United States against the North from the beginning of the year, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today urges them to immediately cancel the unjust decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

On January 4, a joint air war exercise aimed at increasing capabilities of surprise bombing and joint strike on the strategic vantage points of the northern half of Korea took place in South Korea. Involved in it were U.S. Pacific-based fighter-bombers and assault planes and warplanes of the U.S. airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce, more than 200 all told.

And they committed air espionage on the strategic in-depth areas of the North.

The news analyst says:

The war gambles of the United States and South Korean rulers cannot be construed otherwise than premeditated and intentional acts to foil the implementation of the North-South agreement, frustrate the inter-Korean dialogue itself and bring the North-South relations back to the state of confrontation.

The fact that they staged powder-reeking war games from the beginning of the year and are scheming to resume the "Team Spirit" shows that the United States is still clinging to the policy of strength of the cold war era and the South Korean authorities are seeking to attain their sinister aims by intensifying the war moves with outside forces against the North just as they did in the cold war era.

The United States and the South Korean authorities must discontinue the war gambles that run counter to the trend of the times and the aspirations of the nation and must not give off the powder smell.

LSWYK Supports Kim Il-song's New Year Address

SK0801111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—I believe that the principle of reunification based on national independence which was indicated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address is a highly important guideline for accomplishing the cause of the country's reunification in the interests of the nation with its own efforts, and fully support the policy of national reunification that embodies this principle.

Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], said this in a statement January 7. He further said:

The South Korean authorities are going to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with the U.S. imperialists. This is not an attitude of achieving reunification with concerted efforts of the North and the South on the principle of national independence but an anti-national, anti-reunification crime motivated by a sinister intention to "contain" the North with the backing of outside forces.

If the South Korean authorities truly want to solve the reunification question in the interests of the nation, they must renounce the policy of dependence on outside forces before it is too late, take the stand of national independence and immediately withdraw the decision to resume the "Team Spirit".

The youth and students in the North, the South and overseas should be the vanguard and standard-bearer in the struggle against foreign interference in the spirit of national independence.

Libyan Delegation Departs 5 January

SK0801022593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation of the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah led by its Secretary of Fishery Miftah Muhammad Ku'aybah returned home by plane on 5 January.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the External Economic Committee; Chang Pong-yul, vice-chairman of the Fisheries Committee; and Ramadan Muhammad Raubi, acting secretary of the people's committee of the people's bureau of the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to Korea.

Envoy Pays Farewell Visit to Iranian President

SK0801031793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Hwang Sun-muk, our country's ambassador to Iran, paid a farewell visit to this country's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 3 January.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The president expressed deep gratitude and asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He talked about the development of friendly relations between the two countries of Iran and the DPRK, and expressed positive support for the cause of the fatherland's reunification by our people.

Korean Associations in Japan Greet Kim Il-song

SK0301090293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song received messages of greetings on the occasion of the New Year 1993 from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Standing Council of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Scientific and Technological Association of Koreans in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese schools, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, the Association of Peaceful Reunification of Koreans in Japan and other Chongnyon organisations and bodies, CHOSON SINBO, the Korean news service, the Kuwol Sobang publishing house, the Kumgangsan Art Troupe, the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation, the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd., the Korean Special Products Sales Ltd., the Kumgang Insurance Company Ltd. and other enterprises, local headquarters of Chongnyon, the Central Institute of Chongnyon, Choson University and other Korean schools in Japan and Koreans of different strata.

The messages express the resolution of Korean residents in Japan to devote everything to the patriotic work of Chongnyon with the great national pride of living under the guidance of the fatherly leader and strong faith in the socialist fatherland of chuche.

They wholeheartedly wish Generalissimo Kim Il-song good health and long life.

KCNA Reviews 8 January Press

SK0801051293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry news that the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was reported by foreign mass media.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a report that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages from Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and Kazakh President Nursultan A. Nazarbayev in reply to his messages of greetings sent to them on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the Lebanese independence and the first anniversary of the Kazakh national day.

Given in the daily is an account of a seminar of crewmen of a foreign ship on President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "*With the Century*" held in Nampo port on the west coast of Korea.

The daily carries a statement issued to the press by Paek Nam-chun, director of the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, supporting the policy of national reunification clarified by President Kim Il-song in his new year address.

"The historical lesson in building socialism and the general line of our party", a classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, has been widely disseminated and studied in different countries of the world, says the daily.

The daily comes out with an article on the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il in successfully building Pungnyon mine into a nation's dependable production base of phosphate headings.

Printed in the daily is a solidarity letter to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from Anthony Vassalo, general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Malta, denouncing the scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Given in the press are accounts of a rally of employees of the Anju district coal mining complex held to vow to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War with a high degree of political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in production and of innovations in the production of electricity, coal and carbide.

The press observes day of the building-materials industry.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the Mozambican president received the DPRK ambassador and the Afghan president received the charge d'affaires ad interim of the DPRK embassy in Kabul.

The press carries a message published by the C.C., the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) to the South Korean people on the new year.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities committed war exercises against the North from the beginning of the new year. Seen in the daily is a commentary condemning the war manoeuvres.

The daily comes out with an article headlined "Resumption of 'Team Spirit' is Criminal Act Against Independent Reunification".

The press informs the readers that the South Korean authorities openly defended Japan's moves toward nuclear arming and South Korean women who had been taken away as "comfort women for the army" demanded of the Japanese Government an apology and compensation.

Papers round up voices of foreigners praising the anthropocentric Korean-style socialism.

Commenting on the recent signing of START-2 between Russia and the United States, NODONG SINMUN terms this an event deserving welcome.

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary hitting at the South Korean authorities for continuing to take issue with the North over the nuclear problem.

Papers report that the Mongolian president in his new year address referred to the nation's economic problem, the Iranian president called for strengthening mutual cooperation among Islamic states and the Cuban foreign minister declared that Cuba would fight against the U.S. economic blockade.

NODONG SINMUN deals with the daily worsening housing problem in capitalist countries.

NODONG SINMUN Comments on Current Issues

Kim-Il-song Address

SK0601040393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0015 GMT 4 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 4 January editorial: "Let Us Accelerate the Fatherland's Reunification on the Principle of National Independence"]

[Text] In his New Year's address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented a programmatic plan to solve the problem of the country's reunification based on the principle of national independence, as well as a programmatic task of solving the problem. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said: The principle of national independence is a firm, basic principle on the fatherland's reunification.

In his New Year's address, the great leader pointed out that the problem of Korea's reunification is a national problem that our fellow countrymen must solve on their own initiative. He also stressed that our party and government will continuously make efforts to reunify the fatherland under a confederal system—which is based on one nation, one state, two systems, two governments—based on the principle of national independence. He also declared that if anyone truly assumes a sincere attitude for solving the problem of the fatherland's reunification on the stand of national independence, we will sit face to face with him without questioning his past, frankly discuss national reunification with him, and make joint efforts to achieve the cause of the fatherland's reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song also pointed out that the problem of Korea's reunification is an international problem. Countries concerned, aware of their responsibility, must positively cooperate to solve the problem. They must boldly discard their outdated policies of the Cold War era and assume a stand of solving the Korean problem in compliance with the demand of the times and the principle of international justice.

The idea of reunification based on national independence, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song again declared in his New Year's address; and the principle on reunification and the reunification plan through which the idea is implemented, are programmatic guidelines that help solve the problem of the country's reunification, which is related to the nation's destiny, at the earliest possible date in compliance with national interests on the nation's own initiative. They are also just policies that elucidated a way to fairly solve the Korean problem, the byproduct of the Cold War, in compliance with the changed trend of the times and the principle of international justice.

Achieving the fatherland's reunification based on the principle of national independence is the unanimous stand of our party and government, all the fellow countrymen's unanimous earnest desire, and the urgent demand of the times. As is known, since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity by implementing the idea of reunification based on national independence, the national reunification movement has expanded and developing on a pan-national scale and ultimately become an unstoppable trend today.

In compliance with the fellow countrymen's aspirations for independent reunification, North-South dialogue developed on a high level, and the North and South consequently adopted and effectuated the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, momentous progress. The adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration was the declaration that the North and South would solve the problem of the country's reunification at the nation's initiative by achieving reconciliation and unity without allowing any intervention by outside forces. It is also a fruition of the idea of reunification based on national independence and a momentous event that has provided a firm guarantee for the solution to the reunification problem based on the principle of national independence.

Independence is the nation's life. For this very reason, our people conducted a protracted and harsh national-liberation struggle for the fatherland's restoration. Even after liberation, they have persistently struggled at all costs to smash outside forces' aggression and intervention and to realize the country's independence on the nation-wide scale.

The fatherland's reunification should become one to realize the nation's independence, not one to be subjugated to others. Truly, the idea on realizing the fatherland's reunification based on the principle of national independence is a patriotic and nation-loving banner which can be put forward only by the peerless patriot and great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who very early embarked on the road of revolution, who has achieved a historic cause of the national liberation by conducting a harsh anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle under the banner of chuche idea, who has felt more upset than any one else to see the national division after the country's liberation, and who has dedicated himself to give the fellow countrymen the reunified fatherland.

The South Korean authorities had face-to-face talks with us and signed the agreement saying that the North and South would reconcile and unite to realize the country's reunification with the nation's own initiative. Nevertheless, they do not try to reconcile and unite with the fellow countrymen, but intensify collusion with outside forces, while creating obstacles to implementing the agreement under the unjust pretext.

The South Korean authorities have decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States this year while loudly talking about the doubts concerning the North's non-existent nuclear development. This is specifically proven by the fact that instead of withdrawing their unjust decision, they move forward to conduct the exercise despite our repeated warnings.

This is not an attitude to realize national independence by achieving reunification with the united might of the North and South, but an anti-national one to reach their insidious goal by struggling against the fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces and by entrusting the whole nation's destiny to them.

The South Korean rulers are talking about dialogue and reunification, cherishing such an evil intention. It is deceitful and trifling with the nation. Therefore, their such act can be never tolerated.

As clarified by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address, the principle of national independence is a basic one for the fatherland's reunification that cannot be yielded. Only when we rely on this principle can we realize the fatherland's reunification in conformity with our nation's intention and interest.

The Korean reunification issue is a national one that our people should resolve with their own initiative. Our people's struggle for national reunification is, basically, the national cause to reunify as one the territory and nation that have been temporary divided by outside forces. This is also the national cause to realize the nation's independence. Therefore, it is our people who should be the main forces of national reunification. No one can give our nation reunification as well as carry out the cause of reunification for our people.

Our country's reunification can be successfully realized only when our people in the North, South, and abroad—who are its main forces—firmly unite and struggle under the banner of the reunification idea of national independence.

As clarified again by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address, our country's reunification should be realized through a confederal system based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments.

Reunification by means of a confederal system is the most reasonable and surest method to establish national independence by realizing just reunification of the fatherland without infringement of each other's interest by the North and the South under the condition of our country's specific reality in which the North and South have different ideology and system.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has declared that we will meet and discuss the national reunification open-mindely, without questioning the past, with whoever takes a sincere attitude to really resolve the fatherland's reunification issue on the standpoint of national independence, and will make joint efforts to realize the cause of the fatherland's reunification. This is of special significance. This reflects the broad magnanimity and generosity of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song to help all the Korean compatriots, irrespective of their past doings, take the road of patriotism to achieve the fatherland's reunification and realize national independence.

Our people in the North, the South, and abroad should vigorously launch into the struggle to realize reunification by means of a confederal system by rejecting the idea of relying on foreign forces and uniting on the principle of national independence.

Korean reunification is a national issue, which our nation should resolve as the main force, and at the same time, it is an international issue for which the countries concerned should take responsibility and actively cooperate.

As the world knows, the division of our country was not caused by a contradiction inside our nation, but completely forced by foreign forces. The delay of Korea's reunification is related to continuous interference by foreign forces and their maneuvers to block it. Therefore, it is important for the countries concerned to do something helpful to Korea's reunification.

The countries concerned must respect the spirit of the agreement between the North and the South in conformity with the demand of the situation in which the two sides adopted and effectuated the historic agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization. Also, they should actively help our nation resolve the reunification issue independently and peacefully.

In resolving the Korean issue, which is a product of the cold war, it is important for the countries concerned to boldly abandon the old policy of the cold war era.

It is an anachronistic way of thinking to deal with the Korean issue on the strength-based position with the old viewpoint of the cold war era now when antagonistic relations between the East and the West have been cleared and when our nation's spirit for peaceful reunification becomes higher than ever.

Moreover, to continuously stick to the one-sided polity of the cold war era by putting military threats and economic pressure on us is running counter to the trend of the times and cannot be regarded as an attitude to try to eradicate the afterwards of the cold war.

If the countries concerned with the Korean issue take the responsibility for the ongoing tragedy of the division of Korea and stand on the position to justly resolve the Korean issue, a legacy of the old times, in conformity with the demand of the times and the principle of international justice, they will come to make a proper contribution to this and implement their duties in the Korean issue.

The United States, as a party concerned with direct responsibility for the Korean issue, must naturally take a positive role in realizing Korea's reunification. Other countries concerned must adhere to the position of the principle that is helpful to the Korea's reunification, too.

This will be beneficial not only to our people but also to themselves and exert good influence on improving relations between the peoples of our country and these countries.

The policy of the fatherland's reunification based on national independence, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented in his New Year address, is a pragmatic guidance that elucidates to all the countrymen, who have launched into the grand nationwide march for reunification in the nineties, a short cut to early realization of fatherland's reunification on the principle of national independence in conformity with the nation's expectations and aspiration. It is also the banner of encouragement that bestows them a solid hope and faith in reunification.

Success or failure of the fatherland's reunification depends on how all the compatriots in the North, the South, and abroad, who are the main forces of reunification, struggle with unity.

All the compatriots in the North, the South, and abroad who love the country and the nation should smash the disturbing maneuvers by the splitists at home and abroad and unanimously launch into the sacred struggle to realize fatherland's reunification on the principle of national independence, upholding the policy of fatherland's reunification presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address. By doing so, they should make a remarkable turning point this year in the grand march for reunification of the fatherland.

Obstacles and barriers still exist on the road of reunification. However, when all compatriots in the North, the South, and abroad, as the main forces of reunification, vigorously accelerate the historic march for reunification in the nineties on the principle of national independence, the cause of fatherland's reunification will be achieved without fail.

ROK 'Living Hell'

SK0601054893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 6 Jan 93

["Tragedies in Corrupt Society"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—In South Korea a high school student in Inchon city, two old women and a company clerk in Seoul destroyed themselves around the New Year's Day.

Commenting on the tragic suicide cases, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says they are victims to the crimes prevalent in the corrupt and ailing South Korean social system and to the anti-popular policy of the South Korean rulers who only seek power and a gay life by exploiting and fleecing the people.

The news analyst goes on:

South Korean society is a living hell in which a tiny handful of the haves enjoy all powers and luxury while the toiling masses who account for an overwhelming majority live in poverty, sorrow and penury.

People are plagued by more than 200 kinds of taxes and snowballing debts, and have to die a tragic death on the roadside, denied hospital treatment for the lack of money, and 60 percent of the population have no home of their own. Such is the reality of South Korea.

It is also South Korea where more than two million jobless people and nearly five million underemployed people are roaming in search for a job and many of them have to go begging for their meals.

What an ordinary worker has earned through his hard toil for ten years is not enough for a student in South Korea to finish a university course. So children of the poor are crying in misery, their desire for learning remaining a mere dream.

The fact that South Korea is a living hell unfit for human habitation is well illustrated by the fact that those who commit suicide, disappointed at gnawing poverty, average more than 10,000 annually.

The tragedies in South Korea which the U.S. imperialists and their stooges advertise as a "show ground of the liberal democratic system" prove that "Liberal Democracy" is nothing but a deceptive slogan for whitewashing the corrupt and ailing social system.

South Blocking Dialogue

SK0501103893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 5 Jan 93

["Aggravating Tension Is Anti-National Perfidy To Frustrate Dialogue and Implementation of Agreement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities barred the opening of the first meetings of North-South joint committees and drove all the North-South dialogue into a crisis by taking a criminal step to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises together with the U.S. imperialists from this year with the operation of North-South joint committees at hand. This is a perfidy to the nation.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed article today.

North-South dialogue must be channelled, under all circumstances, to suit the interests and demand of the nation as it is a dialogue for reunification, the paper urges, and goes on:

The North-South high-level talks were started by the two sides to solve the internal affairs of the nation by their own efforts and the historic North-South agreement which was adopted and effectuated is run through with the spirit of national independence.

"Suspicion of nuclear development" against the North raised by the South Korean rulers while coiling up tension is a fiction invented by the United States to find a new excuse for occupation, having lost the pretext of permanent occupation of South Korea with the adoption of the North-South agreement.

Truth to tell, the "nuclear question" had not been raised when the North-South agreement was adopted.

The South Korean authorities themselves admitted that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises were a stumbling block in the way of North-South dialogue when they suspended them last year.

The South Korean rulers, however, decided to resume the nuclear war exercises against the North together with the United States, raising outcries over the fictitious "nuclear development" of the North, when the work for the implementation of the North-South agreement entered into a practical stage. This is a deliberate treachery and premeditated act of aggravating the tension intended to wreck the North-South dialogue and give up the implementation of the agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization under the pressure and instructions of the United States.

It is an expression of the despicable flunkeyist and treacherous stand of the South Korean authorities to attach more importance to collusion with the outside forces than to promise with fellow countrymen and put the interests of the foreign forces above those of the nation. Furthermore, it is a manifestation of the wild ambition for "unification by prevailing over communism" with the help of outside forces.

If the South Korean authorities obstinately follow the road of aggravating tension together with the United States, going against the desire of the nation, they will be held entirely responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

National Independence Vital

SK0601110993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 6 Jan 93

["Principle of National Independence Is Vital to Settlement of Reunification Question"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address clarified again the essence and nature of the Korean reunification question and called for reunifying the country on the principle of national independence.

This policy set out by the great leader is a bright beacon that clearly illumines the way of most satisfactorily solving the question of national reunification at the earliest date possible in conformity with the interests and desire of the nation with its internal force, ruling out any foreign interference, and a highly important guideline for the settlement of the reunification question, notes NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It says:

The principle of national independence is the fundamental principle of national reunification that stems from the essence and nature of this question. In this principle the immortal chuche idea is successfully applied to the settlement of the reunification question.

It is based on the belief in our nation's independent strength and ability and it reflects the just stand of our people to solve the national problem with their own efforts.

It is also the fundamental principle of national reunification based on the idea that the reunification desired by our nation is one for realizing national independence, not one for dependence on others.

The principle of national independence is the fundamental principle of reunification from which we cannot stand back.

This fundamental principle should be maintained in implementing the North-South agreement and achieving national reunification. Only on the basis of this principle, is it possible to successfully solve the reunification question in conformity with the desire and will of our nation.

As President Kim Il-song declared again in his New Year address, the most reasonable and fair way of reunifying the country peacefully on the principle of national independence is the establishment of a confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments. The proposal for reunification through confederacy shows the best way of earliest peaceful reunification in our country where different systems exist in the North and the South. It is also the basis and great principle of national agreement on the method of reunification. Only when all the compatriots in the North, South and overseas turn out as one in the struggle to materialize the proposal for reunification through confederacy, placing the common interests of the nation above anything else, is it possible to reunify the country as the same nation though differences in ideology and system remain within the nation.

Defend Socialism's Honor

SK0501114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 5 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Defending and Bringing Honor to Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address, putting forward the task to defend and bring honor to socialism, declared that the revolutionary principle and line which our party and our people must firmly maintain are steadfast and invariable.

Dr. Chong Kwan-yong in his article contributed to NODONG SINMUN today stresses that the teaching of the great leader is a precious guideline which indicates the fundamental key to defending and adding luster to socialism.

The author of the article says:

As taught by the great leader in his New Year address, socialism is, in effect, the life and soul of our people. The intrinsic demand and desire of the people to live an independent life can be met successfully only on the road of socialism. Apart from socialism the dignity, honor and worthy life of man are unthinkable.

The great leader in his New Year address clearly expounded that defending and bringing honor to socialism of our own style which has been achieved through a bloody struggle is the only way for the glorious life of our people and the way to victory.

Today the imperialists are loud-mouthed about the "end of socialism". But socialism remains an ideal of the progressive mankind and the aspiration of the people for socialism is growing stronger day by day. Today one hundred several dozen communist and workers' parties and progressive political parties of the world have signed the Pyongyang Declaration on defending socialism and are waging a vigorous struggle for its realisation. This fact shows that the world is entering into a historical period in which the socialist movement is being rebuilt on a new ground.

At this moment of historical turn, the great leader showed the way of winning victory by holding higher the banner of socialism in face of the challenge by imperialism. This is an inspiring banner and a beacon of hope which gives immense strength and confidence to the revolutionary parties and people who are struggling to rebuild socialism.

An honorable task has been put forward to firmly defend the revolutionary banner of chuche and dynamically advance along the road of socialism under the grim circumstances in which the imperialists' frenzied anti-socialist campaign is sweeping the world. This is, indeed, a clear proof of the greatness of the party and the leader that lead the people along a straight path of victory, tightly holding the helm of revolution, not shaking in the least in any raging storm.

Capitalism: Imperialist Sophistry

SK0501102593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 5 Jan 93

["'Devilish Reality'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the imperialists' sophism about "advantages" of capitalism.

The commentary captioned "Devilish Reality" says:

The qualitative distinctions between the socialist and the capitalist system are well illustrated, among other things, by human relations.

The jungle law "man is a wolf to man" governs the human relations in capitalist society.

Quoting an ASSOCIATED PRESS report that about 900 children more or less ten years of age in Chicago sent a letter to the mayor, asking him to increase the police so that they might freely play outdoors without the threat of guns, the analyst says:

A 7-year-old child wrote, "I am terribly afraid of this devilish reality. Please save me."

Hostile relations based on the animal-like jungle law that "I can survive only when I kill you" by any means hold sway in capitalist society. It is natural that not an iota of human reason and conscience, morality and virtue can be found in this society.

Declaring that our socialism is a society where humanity is respected and loved, the analyst goes on:

In our society, people donate their blood, skin and bone to others, girls volunteer to marry disabled soldiers, and people willingly bring up orphans and lay down their lives for the collective and comrades without hesitation. Such noble mental and moral traits are inconceivable in capitalist society.

Herein lies the realistic logic of the truth that socialism is sure to win and capitalism is fated to fall.

* Intensified Work at Neighborhood Level Demanded

932C0058A Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 4 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by Choe Chong-hon: "Strengthening the Work of Tongs and Neighborhood Units Is a Requirement for the Consolidation and Development of Our Society"]

[Text] That the whole society comprises a large revolutionary family is the true character of our own style of masses-centered socialism. In further consolidating and developing socialism in our country under which all members of society live in harmony helping and leading one another, it is very important to improve and strengthen the work of tongs and neighborhood units.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"Inasmuch as a tong consists of homes, the cells of our society, whether or not we will succeed in strengthening our society depends much on the way we conduct the work of the tong."

The base-level life unit of the people in our society is the home. Tongs and neighborhood units are made of homes, the base-level units of society. To be healthy, a person needs to strengthen the cells comprising the body. By the same token, the homes, the cells of society, need be fixed well if we are to consolidate and develop society. For this reason, we need to constantly improve the work of the tongs and neighborhood units. Only by so doing is it possible to have all homes enjoy a healthy and happy life and make social life bright and lively in all its aspects.

To constantly improve and strengthen the work of the tongs and neighborhood units to suit the requirements of developing reality is a consistent demand of our party.

In the course of leading socialist construction, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, always attaching a great significance to the work of the tongs and neighborhood units, have paid personal visits to tongs and neighborhood units providing on-the-spot guidance to their work. In addition, they have indicated concrete directions and methods for strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units and led them to bring about a new turn in their work to suit the demands of developing reality by vigorously waging a mass movement.

Thanks to the wise leadership and the unending love and solicitude of the great leader and the dear leader comrade, the work of all the tongs and neighborhood units has constantly improved and the role of the tongs and neighborhoods in social life has further strengthened.

To strengthen the work of the tongs and neighborhood units to suit the demands for social development by upholding the party intentions is an important requirement for the consolidation and development of our socialist system.

The reason that to strengthen the work of the tongs and neighborhood units is an important requirement for the consolidation and development of our socialist system is that first of all, strengthening the work of the neighborhood units will enable us to fix our homes well and successfully execute the work of revolutionizing.

The might of socialist society is the might of ideology, and the superiority of socialist society is determined by the masses of people with socialist ideology. Accordingly, revolutionizing all members of society arise as an important issue in consolidating and developing socialist society.

In revolutionizing all members of society, the revolutionizing of homes is essential. Strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units constitutes an important way of actively promoting the revolutionizing of homes.

The tong is at the lowest end of the administrative district system in our country, and each tong has numerous neighborhood units each consisting of different homes. Currently, each individual in our country conducts his life by belonging to a particular tong and neighborhood unit in his area of residence. Accordingly, the problem of fixing the homes well and carrying out the revolution is importantly related to the question of how to strengthen the work of the tongs and neighborhood units. Strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units plays a great part in revolutionizing each home in each tong and neighborhood by enhancing the functions and role of the people's government.

The inhabitants in all strata are the objects of the work of the tongs and neighborhoods, which include people with different occupations, different statuses, and different characteristics. Accordingly, when the work of the tongs and neighborhoods is strengthened, it is possible to arm all inhabitants of the tongs and neighborhood units tightly with the party ideology and indoctrinate them in the spirit of collectivism, thereby thoroughly cleansing them of all the outmoded ideologies and conventions, such as individualism and egoism. In addition, it is also possible to have people live in harmony with their neighbors helping and leading each other, and to cultivate the fine custom of helping neighbors in earnest regarding their pains as if they were one's own, and of loving and respecting each other. This will make all people united in terms of ideological will and make every one of them work earnestly for the sake of society and the people. As a result, it is possible to fix well the homes, the base-level units of social life, and further arrange every aspect of social life in a wholesome manner.

In revolutionizing all members of society, the revolutionizing of the women is very important. In tongs and neighborhood units, there are many housewifes who do not work. Only by strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units Under this condition is it possible to revolutionize all housewifes through indoctrination work and thus promote the task for revolutionizing the homes and the women at the same time. When the women are thus revolutionized, they will become better able to indoctrinate their own children, thereby helping successfully realize the revolutionizing of society.

Strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units also has a great impact on establishing the socialist life style among the people. Through participation in the activities of their tongs and neighborhood units, people become better acquainted with the norms and rules of conduct that they must observe in socialist society; make it their habit to observe these norms and rules; and come to fulfil his duty faithfully in the observance of social order and public ethics. As a result, the work of the tongs and neighborhood units will become fixed so well and the revolutionary system and order is established so firmly that there will not be even the slightest manifestation of unwholesome elements and there will be no place for impure elements to set foot on. Thus we will be able to consolidate and develop our most superb socialist system and add to its might.

Another reason that strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units is an important requirement for the consolidation and development of our society is that such strengthening enables us to further improve the material and cultural aspects of life of our people.

Importantly, the superiority and vitality of the socialist system manifest themselves in the material and cultural aspects of life the people enjoy. Inasmuch as our purpose in building socialism and communism is to provide the masses with conditions for a happier life, we need to constantly improve the material and cultural aspects of their lives to suit the demands for social development.

Improving and strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhood units is an important requirement in making the people live in a more cultured environment and insure a comfortable life for them.

Only by strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhoods is it possible to enable all families to take good care of the houses they live in, keep the streets and village in a sanitary and cultured condition, radically change the face of the city, and make everyone live in a cultured environment. It also possible to keep tabs on the actual living condition of the people belonging to each tong and neighborhood unit and see to it that they do not feel the slightest inconvenience in their life.

Strengthening the work of the tongs and neighborhoods enables all inhabitants to participate voluntarily in the task to fix their tongs and neighborhoods well and satisfactorily fulfill the tasks assigned them through a movement of all the masses. In the final analysis, this amounts to actively contributing to socialist construction and at the same time making the life of each home more affluent and more cultured, and in this process enables us to give fuller play to the collectivist power of our society and provide better conditions for the material and cultural aspects of life for our people.

If housewifes living in their tongs and neighborhood units are made to work in their respective household work teams by strengthening the work of tongs and neighborhood units, they will do many good things beneficial to the national economy and increase their family incomes so that the lives of the inhabitants will become more affluent.

This will inculcate in our people a stronger attachment to and a stronger faith with socialism and actively spur them on to struggle devotedly for the consolidation and development of the socialist system for which they are grateful.

Constantly consolidated and improved under the wise leadership of the party, the work of the tongs and neighborhood units has been able to greatly contribute to revolutionizing the homes and improving the living standard of the people. The socialist system in our country has been further consolidated, with urban and rural areas, villages and streets, overflowing with the happiness and joys of the people in living under the most superb socialist system. Everyone is vigorously fighting on with faith in and hopes for their future. Hidden behind all this are the devoted efforts of the tong functionaries and neighborhood unit chiefs.

To constantly improve and strengthen the work of the tongs and neighborhood units at a time when socialist construction is accelerating, it is imperative to enhance the responsibility and role of the functionaries in this field. Our party demands that tong functionaries and neighborhood unit chiefs redouble their efforts to perform all their tasks in a revolutionary way, with a profound knowledge of the importance of their duties. For the tong functionaries and neighborhood unit chiefs nothing is more honorable than repay the party's trust in them with their practical achievements in their work.

The campaigns to win the title of "the 11 July red flag tong" and that of "the 11 July red flag neighborhood unit" are mass movements conducted with each tong and neighborhood as a unit.

All tongs and neighborhood units should make greater progress in the indoctrination of the people and in the improvement of their living condition and change the face of society still more radically in all its facets, by vigorously pushing the above-mentioned campaigns, with a constant grip on them as demanded by the party.

All tongs and neighborhood units should strive to consolidate and develop our socialist system still further and give fuller play to the superiority of our own style of masses-centered socialism by stepping up their work as desired by the party.

* Bourgeois Ideas, Culture Poison Socialism

932C0059A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 3 Dec 92 p 6

[Article by Chon Yong-pok: "Bourgeois Ideas and Culture Are the Toxins That Corrupt and Degenerate Socialism"]

[Text] Currently, the imperialists are feverishly running wild trying to spread their putrid bourgeois ideas and culture. This is part of the imperialists' antipopular and antisocial machinations designed to atrophy the class consciousness of the revolutionary peoples and turn backward the wheel of history that is independently moving forward.

The peoples who are building socialism are confronted with the task to wage an active struggle to block the infiltration of the bourgeois ideology and culture that the imperialists are trying to spread.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Central Committee and secretary of the Party Central Committee, pointed out as follows:

"It is an old trick of the imperialists to make an ideological infiltration prior to an open aggression. We must thoroughly crush the machinations of the imperialists to blow the winds of bourgeois liberalism into socialist countries to disintegrate them ideologically from within."

Blocking the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture is of immense significance in promoting the cause of self-dependence of the masses. Bourgeois ideology and culture are ideological toxins that paralyzes the wholesome consciousness of the people. The capitalist ruling cliques are pouring an enormous amount of money and wealth to degenerate the workers in ideological and spiritual terms. In order for the masses to avoid falling victim to the reactionary ideas and culture that the imperialists are trying to implant in them, or to avoid becoming mentally crippled, they should resolutely fight against the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture.

Currently, the imperialists are directing the spearhead of infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture at the socialist countries. Bourgeois ideology and culture are an ideological weapon for the imperialist strategy (for peaceful transition) aimed at disintegrating the socialist countries from within. If bourgeois ideology and culture infiltrate socialist countries, this would happen: Those who used to live in a revolutionary way would become tainted with the bourgeois way of life; the socialist system would be destroyed; and the old system and order that shackled the independent stand and attitude of the masses would revive. As a result, socialism would crumble ideologically, making the revival of capitalism inevitable.

No matter how desperate the imperialists may be in their attempt to infiltrate their bourgeois ideology and culture into socialist countries, we are competent to block and frustrate it. The problem is how the masses are awakened and how they will struggle to block the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture.

To be clearly aware of the reactionary nature of bourgeois ideology and culture is a precondition for thoroughly countering their infiltration.

The reactionary character of bourgeois ideology and culture lies in that they paralyze the wholesome consciousness of people making them mentally crippled.

It is an inherent demand of man, a social being with an independent stand and attitude, creativity, and goal-consciousness, that people live in society and the collective opposing all kinds of subjugation and shackles, and creating social wealth through diligent labor. Bourgeois ideology and culture not only subjugate people to the capitalist system of exploitation but also turn them into an adjunct to money and goods, not into a creative being but into parasites given to idle vanity and debauchery, and into animals seeking creature comfort and pleasure indifferent to the well-being of society and the collective. Great indeed are the consequences brought about by bourgeois ideology and culture—which preach, mammonism, criticality, obfuscation, and individual egoism—in the process of corrupting people.

We should be clearly aware of the evil effects of bourgeois ideology and culture on society. Bourgeois ideology and culture are an ideological tool for changing society into an animal world in which disorder and confusion dominates and in which the law of the jungle is in force. "Freedom" as advocated by bourgeois ideology and culture is not true freedom but liberalism based on extreme individual egoism. Liberalism, namely, extreme individual egoism, turn people into beasts. In capitalist society various crimes, such as fraud, swindle, murder, robbery, and flesh trafficking, are rampant and political power struggle and struggle for economic interests are daily occurrences, because capitalism fuels bestiality.

If bourgeois ideology and culture infiltrate socialist society, the capitalist political and economic systems would revive and various social vices would become rampant. This is the truth proven by history.

Bourgeois ideology and culture are a kind of narcotic. It lures people to a life of dissolution, soaks them with license, and sinks them into an inescapable abyss.

Another important thing in opposing and countering the ideological and cultural infiltration of the imperialists is to acutely criticize the craftiness and viciousness of the trick used by the imperialists in infiltrating bourgeois ideology and culture into socialist countries.

Advertising the "superiority" of capitalism while slandering, maligning, and belittling socialism is an old trick of the imperialists. Socialist society is superior to capitalist society in all respects. Socialism is a society in which the centuries-old cherished desire of the masses to live in freedom and happiness has been realized. No society on earth better insures freedom, democracy and human rights than socialist society where luster is added to human dignity, and value, independent rights are respected, and socialist democracy is practiced.

The purpose of the imperialists in slandering socialist society is to undermine the faith of the masses in socialism and destroy socialist society. The imperialists are crafty, vicious, and tenacious. They are utilizing the fruits of modern science and technology in spreading their putrid bourgeois ideology and culture. It is a well known fact that the imperialists are using various modern mass propaganda media, such as publications, broadcasts, films, and recordings, to glorify and spread extreme individual egoism, mammonism, and the law of the jungle. The U.S. imperialists have over 300 radio stations in various parts of the world, squandering hundreds of millions of dollars each year on frantic subversive anticommunist propaganda.

We must intensify our vigilance against what the imperialists are blabbing about "freedom" of thought. In capitalist society which is divided into classes and strata with conflicting interests, it is impossible for any one thought to dominate the whole society; accordingly, it is inevitable that different thoughts and trends exist. This phenomenon in capitalist society is called "freedom" of thought by the imperialists and their spokesmen. There can be no true freedom of thought in capitalist society where the power of capitalism holds sway over everything. The monopoly capitalists keep a grip on most of propaganda media, such as publications, radio, and television, under their money power; are forcing reactionary thoughts upon the people; and do not hesitate to openly suppress any thought they consider dangerous to them. Yet they are touting "freedom" of thought. This stems from a foolish attempt to infiltrate their reactionary ideas into socialist countries.

Also important in blocking the ideological and cultural infiltration of the imperialists is to thoroughly defend the fundamental principles of socialism and our class-oriented stand.

Bourgeois ideology and culture demand the shedding of the revolutionary principles and the working-class stand. "Pluralism" as advocated by the imperialists means "multiparty system" in politics and "diversification" in ownership; and as such it is fundamentally in conflict with socialism.

Socialism is a cause for the sake of the masses, and the interests of socialism and the masses are one and the same. To build socialism to suit the independent demands and basic interests of the masses, we need to consolidate the working-class party in organizational and ideological terms; securely guarantee the leadership of the party in the revolution and construction; constantly enhance the functions and role of the socialist government; and safeguard and keep on developing socialist ownership. This is the revolutionary principle from which we cannot budge even an inch.

With their purse tinkling, the imperialists are trying to force socialist countries to give up their revolutionary principles and working-class stand. We should not have even the slightest illusion on imperialism and never yield our revolutionary principles even an inch. One step yielded and withdrawn from the socialist principles would lead to tens and hundreds of steps of retreat.

The cause of socialism is distinct from other social movements because of its principled character; and socialism explores the road ahead by banking on the justness and vitality of its principles. Historical experience shows that when the revolutionary principles are adhered to, the cause of socialism can move onward overcoming whatever difficulty and ordeal; whereas when the revolutionary principles are abandoned, socialism changes its color and comes to a standstill midway.

Our party has thoroughly maintained the socialist principles under whatever environment and condition. In the past innumerable obstacles and ordeals confronted our revolution. But thanks to the faith of our party in the sure victory of socialism and the stalwart determination of our party to adhere to the socialist principles to the end, we have been able to safeguard our own style of socialism securely and keep on moving forward.

Also important in blocking the ideological and cultural infiltration of the imperialists is to arm ourselves tightly with the chuche ideology and establish thoroughly the revolutionary ethos of valuing and defending the spoils of socialism.

Blocking the inroads of bourgeois ideology and culture is a serious ideological struggle. There can be a vacuum in the ideological consciousness of people, but only those armed with the revolutionary thought are immune to the influence of bourgeois ideology.

The chuche ideology is a powerful ideological weapon capable of crushing bourgeois ideology and culture. The chuche ideology elucidates the man-centered world outlook on the basis of a scientific analysis of human nature. People with the chuche-based revolutionary world outlook come into possession of a correct view of true life and real freedom and happiness, and remain impervious to the lure of bourgeois ideology and culture.

The chuche ideology is a revolutionary theory that elucidates the features of socialist, communist society and lights the path to its perfection in a scientific way. Only those armed tightly with the chuche ideology can have a firm faith in socialism and see through the reactionary nature of the machinations of the imperialists who are bent upon slandering and maligning socialism.

The reactionary nature of bourgeois ideology and culture the imperialists are spreading has been brought to the light of day. Through their experience in life, the revolutionary peoples world over have come to realize keenly the truth that bourgeois ideology and culture bring nothing but disaster and that nothing can be gained by bringing them in.

History is bound to flow in the direct as desired by the masses, not by the imperialists. Victory is on the side of the peoples who are moving onward on the road of socialism, and the reckless machinations of the imperialists against socialism are doom to collapse.

* Enhanced Role of Legal Guidance Personnel Urged

932C0057A Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 3 Dec 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Upgrade the Role and Responsibility of the Legal Guidance Personnel"]

[Text] Confronting our people today is the task to give fuller play to the superiority of our own style of masses-centered socialism by vigorously accelerating socialist construction. In accomplishing this task, it is important to establish more firmly the revolutionary law-abiding ethos in every aspect of social life, and in this connection, to enhance the role and responsibility of the legal guidance personnel.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"The legal guidance personnel, with a sense of responsibility for their duty, must persistently conduct their explanation-propaganda work on the laws among the masses in various forms and by various methods and lead them in enforcing the laws and strengthening law-abiding life."

For the legal guidance personnel to enhance their responsibility and role in their work is a necessary condition for bringing about a good result in the establishment of a revolutionary law-abiding ethos.

The legal guidance personnel are the ones who personally take responsibility for conducting indoctrination work on the law-abiding spirit in their given units, always working and living together with the masses. Each of the revolutionary posts of which the legal guidance personnel are currently in charge is closely related to all aspects of socialist construction.

When each of the legal guidance personnel conducts legal guidance activities in his post in a responsible manner, the revolutionary law-abiding ethos will be established more firmly and our state and social systems will be continually consolidated and improved.

To upgrade the responsibility and role of the legal guidance personnel is an essential requirement in discharging their duties in the implementation of party policy.

The legal guidance personnel take it as their duty and honorable mission to implement party policy and accelerate the revolution and construction by insuring the accurate observance and enforcement of the laws as active protector and propagandist of the laws of the republic. That is why when the legal guidance personnel enhance their responsibility and role in their work, the struggle of the masses for the implementation of party policy will surge onward and our socialist construction will accelerate more vigorously.

The responsibility and role of the legal guidance personnel should manifest themselves more in the party' intention of stepping up indoctrination on the law-abiding spirit than anywhere else.

Indoctrination on the law-abiding spirit is one form of ideological indoctrination designed to strengthen the subject of the revolution. The legal guidance personnel should strive to step up indoctrination on the law-abiding spirit with vigor and enthusiasm. In particular, they should pay primary attention to conducting indoctrination work with depth in order to familiarize the masses with our party's chuche-based idea and theory of developing the law and with the revolutionary and people-centered characteristics and contents of the socialist laws in our country. By so doing, they will enable the workers to participate in law-abiding life in a manner befitting the mast, with a keen self- awareness of being the masters of the state and society.

In enhancing the responsibility and role of the legal guidance personnel, it is important to plant in them the self-awareness of being the active executors of party policy.

With a keen sense of pride as active executors of party policy, the legal guidance personnel should thoroughly comply with the demands of the Taean work system, the superb economic management system of our society, and persistently conduct among the workers explanation-propaganda work on the laws in various forms and by various methods, paying pivotal attention to strictly establishing system and order in their respective branches and units and enhancing discipline in planning, labor administration, and production.

There are not many days left before the end of the year. With a profound sense of the importance of their duties in the execution of this year's economic tasks, legal guidance workers in the preceding sectors of the national economy should conduct legal guidance activities in such a way as to have all efforts concentrated on radically increasing coal and electricity production and transporting cargoes in a timely fashion. In particular, they should go out to the blind ends of coal galleries, the boiler-rooms of the power plants, and the railway freight-car repair plants to inflame the law-abiding fervor of the masses.

An important point that arises in this connection is for the legal guidance personnel to stand in the van of the struggle to fulfill the national economic plan as required by the law of the sate.

Teaching by example is in itself an excellent method of indoctrination. A concrete example shown has a greater power to influence than a hundred words spoken. When the legal guidance personnel always serve as an example and mirror in the observance of planning discipline, with the noble character of respecting the legal norms and provisions of the state, they can fuel the enthusiasm of the masses to abide by the law voluntarily. The legal guidance personnel should conduct a vigorous explanation-propaganda work on the laws at production sites where struggle for production is under way, and add spurs to production by putting their shoulders to the wheel of difficult tasks ahead of others.

It is important to upgrade the level of political administrative skill of the legal guidance personnel. The high level of political administrative skill is a necessary condition for performing their assigned duties with flying colors.

If the legal guidance personnel's level of political administrative skill is low, it is impossible for them to conduct a positive explanation-propaganda work on the laws and correctly lead the masses to keeping and observing the laws. Deeply aware that unless they make persistent efforts, they may fall behind the developing realities, the legal guidance personnel should strive to learn from the practical struggle and exert strenuous efforts to improve their level of performance.

For the legal guidance personnel to fulfill their role with a keen sense of responsibility requires that people's committees at all levels carry out work with them well.

People's committees at all levels directly organize and guide the work of the legal guidance personnel under their respective jurisdiction. How the legal guidance personnel perform their assigned duties depends largely on how the people's committees at all levels lead and assist them.

The people's committees at all levels should assist the legal guidance personnel on a regular basis in performing their duties properly. These committees should pay particular attention to properly organizing their work with the legal guidance personnel in the first week of each month. They should organize experience-exchange meetings and workshops for the legal guidance personnel in a planned manner, and assist them in improving their practical skills. In this way all the legal guidance personnel should be made to fulfill their honorable dusty as active protectors and propagandists of the laws of the republic and as the ones in direct charge of indoctrination on the law-abiding spirit.

Great indeed are the party's trust in and expectations from the legal guidance personnel.

All legal guidance personnel should actively contribute to establishing the thoroughgoing revolutionary law-abiding ethos throughout society and giving fuller play to the superiority of our own style of masses-centered socialism by further strengthening their responsibility and role in the performance of their assigned duties.

* Fuel, Power Conservation Urged

932C0056A Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 1 Dec 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Organize the Task for Fuel and Power Conservation and Their Effective Utilization in a Systematic Manner"]

[Text] One of the problems that arise today in implementing the party policy on saving and producing more is how to save fuel and power still more and use them more effectively.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"Newly developing fuel and power resources is important, but economizing on their use is no less important."

To economize on the use of fuel and power and use them more effectively is an important requirement in accelerating socialist economic construction.

Fuel and power are essential factors of production, and their demand constantly increases as the economy grows in scale and as production and construction progress.

To meet the growing demand for fuel and power satisfactorily, it is essential to produce them more, and at the same time, conserve them and put them to more effective use.

Currently, in every sector of the national economy people are adding spurs to the struggle to fulfill this year's plan brilliantly. Winter is the season in which more fuel and power are consumed.

What is most important in this connection is to carry out the campaign for fuel and power conservation as a mass struggle.

There is no sector that does not use fuel and power, and a reserve for their conservation can be found everywhere. To mobilize all these reserves to the fullest, everyone should actively participate in using fuel and power more economically.

The question of fuel and power conversation and their effective utilization boils down to a question of one's attitude toward and concerns about the national economy. Only by making the masses demonstrate an attitude befitting the master toward the national economy is it possible to push the work for fuel and power conservation and their effective utilization vigorously as a mass movement.

In every sector and in every unit, efforts must be made to permeate the masses deeply with the truth that to save even a gram of coal, a drop of oil, and a watt of electricity is a rewarding endeavor that helps the national economy and contributes to the wealth, power, and development of the nation and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

Thus all functionaries and workers should participate in the work for fuel and power conservation and their effective utilization in a manner befitting the master and use their brains and tackle the task tenaciously.

To organize a fool-proof economic organizational work and work out appropriate technical measures is an important guarantee for the conservation of fuel and power and for their effective utilization.

Success in the task for fuel and power conversation and their effective utilization in which all sectors of the national economy and the broad masses are embraced does not come automatically. Only when a carefully worked out economic organizational work as well as rational technical measures is in place, is it possible to carry out this task purposively and increase its effectiveness.

A fuel and power conservation goal should be set for each sector in a scientific manner so that a maximum utilization of reserves may be insured; and each unit should be assigned a conservation quota according to its actual situation, and grasp, reassignment, summation, and evaluation work should conducted in a substantive manner. Functionaries concerned should see to it that each goal that has been set is attained without fail.

It is necessary to create model units in the conservation of fuel and power and in their effective utilization and organize an effective work for popularizing their experiences in a timely fashion by various forms and methods.

This is the age of science and technology. There it is impossible to expect a good result from our efforts for fuel and power conservation without the help of technology.

In each sector and in each unit a sustained active effort must be made to remodel the technical process of work by raising the flames of technical innovation so that fuel and power may be utilized more effectively. At the same time, it is necessary to handle the equipment according to the mechanical engineering requirements and the standard operating methods, eliminate the phenomenon of no-load or under-load operation, and replace excessive capacity motors with optimum-capacity motors, and take all other substantive technical measures relative to fuel and power conservation. More immediately, particular attention must be paid to equipping the heating equipment with heat preserving devices according to the technical rules, installing and utilizing cross-production organizing machinery in a rational manner, and taking technical measures designed to actively mobilize and utilize all heat sources, such as low-calory coal.

To utilize fuel and power in an economical way, it is necessary to strictly observe the order and system established for their supply and consumption.

As practical experience shows, in model units in the conservation of fuel and power and in their effective utilization, there is always a well organized system and order.

In all sectors and units it is necessary to keep tabs on the fuel and power consumption level in a concrete way by strengthening the observance of the measuring and weighing system; and even where the production goals have been overfulfilled, it is necessary to examine the fuel and power consumption level and provide incentives for their conservation so that the consumption standard may be strictly observed. Particularly in the power industry sector, it is necessary to supply the given amount of electricity to the given areas in the given time frame to suit the requirements of organized cross-production; and factories and enterprises should fulfill their production assignments without fail by maximizing the use of power per unit hour. In this way efforts should be made to strengthen discipline and order in cross-production and utilize power more effectively.

Supervisory and regulatory agencies should check the observance of the set rules and regulations concerning the supply and consumption of fuel and power on a daily basis and impose stricter requirements for their observance so that even the slightest deficiency may be corrected in a timely fashion.

Vast is the quantity of fuel and power being produced at the fuel and power bases everywhere in our country which have been consolidated under the wise leadership of the party.

When we save fuel and power even slightly more and utilize them more effectively, we will be able to produce far more goods than now with the amount of fuel and power we have produced.

Efforts must be made in all sectors and units to meet the ever-growing demand for fuel and power more satisfactorily and accelerate production and construction more vigorously by organizing the campaign for fuel and power conservation and their effective utilization in a systematic manner.

South Korea

Government To Sign Chemical Weapons Ban Treaty

SK0401073193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0641 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will sign the chemical weapons ban treaty when it opens for signatures in Paris next week, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will go to France Jan. 13-15 for the treaty signing ceremony along with representatives from more than 100 other nations, the ministry said.

The treaty, produced after more than a decade of negotiations hindered by countries who feared baring their chemical industrial secrets, takes effect two years from the signature opening date and after at least 65 countries ratify it.

It restricts development, production, storage and transfer of chemicals that could be used in weapons making and is expected to strike hard against countries like Iraq and North Korea suspected of producing chemical arsenals.

It stipulates surprise inspections on treaty violating nations and applies unilaterally for both owner and non-owner nations of chemical weapons.

Yi is to deliver a keynote speech at the signing ceremony in which he will urge all countries in northeast Asia to join the treaty and pledge South Korea's full cooperation in eradicating all weapons of mass destruction.

Foreign Ministry Plans To Open Old Diplomatic Papers to Public

SK0801123793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1053 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plans to open to the public those diplomatic papers more than 30 years old except those on sensitive national security matters.

A ministry official said Friday that to facilitate the publicizing, the ministry is working on the enactment of a Foreign Ministry act on the holding and opening of diplomatic papers.

"We are consulting with other relevant offices such as the Government Administration Ministry, the office of legislation and the Agency for National Security Planning over our plan to open less sensitive and old diplomatic papers in a move to better serve the people's right to know," the official said.

The act, if actually enacted, would regulate the microfilming of those diplomatic papers that become 25 years old and the opening to the public those papers more than

30 years old with the exception of those whose opening may imperil national security or encroach upon the privacy of individuals.

The ministry is to soon set up a diplomatic papers screening committee led by the vice foreign minister to promote the opening of diplomatic papers.

"If things go on smoothly, people may be allowed an access to old and less sensitive diplomatic papers beginning March at the earliest," the official said.

Presidential Inauguration Set for 25 February

SK0701044893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam will be inaugurated on the plaza in front of the National Assembly on Feb. 25.

Government Administration Minister Yi Mun-sok met with Chong Won-sik, who heads Kim's transition team, Thursday and discussed the details of the ceremony.

The president-elect is reportedly considering a simple ceremony with 10,000 guests from all walks of life to match the hoped-for image of his administration as a civilian-led government. He will send invitations only to foreign heads of state who ask for them.

Parties Agree To Hold 'Extraordinary' Session

SK0701085193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—Floor leaders of three major political parties agreed Thursday to convene an extraordinary parliamentary session in February.

Kim Yong-tae of the Democratic Liberal Party, Yi Chol of the Democratic Party and Kim Chong-nam of the United People's Party [UPP] also decided that details of the timetable for the special sitting should be discussed later.

The extraodinary session is most likely to be around Feb. 25 as the assembly has to approve the appointment of a new prime minister after president-elect Kim Yong-sam is sworn in, a political source said.

They also agreed to send a six-member parliamentary mission headed by Chong Si-chae, chairman of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committee, to Geneva on Jan. 18 to work out concrete measures for the Uruguay Round trade talks.

Kim Chong-nam of the UPP called for a parliamentary solution for the prosecutors' summons and ban on foreign trips by UPP lawmakers related to alleged illegal activities during the presidential election.

Early Settlement of Semiconductor Dispute Sought

SK0601052693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is aiming for early settlement of a blanket agreement on semiconductor trade with the United States and an end to the U.S. anti-dumping investigation into Korean D-RAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) chips, the Trade and Industry Ministry officials said Wednesday.

To support the suspension agreement, sought by the Korean semiconductor industry to stop the anti-dumping probe and avoid a final ruling, Seoul proposed a comprehensive Korea-U.S. semiconductor agreement to Washington last month, the officials said.

The U.S. commerce department, accusing Korean semiconductor companies of selling their products at less than fair price in the U.S. market, slapped a dumping margin rate of between 5.99 percent and 87.4 percent in a preliminary ruling on Oct. 21 last year.

The final anti-dumping determination is scheduled for march 15.

If the commerce department shows a positive sign in its answer, due later this week, Assistant Trade Minister Chae Jae-uk will fly to Washington early next week to discuss the matter with officials from the Commerce Department and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), ministry officials said.

With the Jan. 28 deadline for the submission of the suspension agreement rough draft nearing, the ministry hopes to settle the agreement before the birth of the new U.S. Administration on Jan. 20, official said.

The suspension agreement proposed by the Korean industry has the same content as the U.S.-Japan semiconductor agreement such as a quota system for maintaining export volume and data on prices and the Data Collection Program (DCP), which prompts immediate submission of materials at the request of Washington.

Kim Yong-sam To Raise Human Rights Issue With DPRK

SK0801065393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam warned North Korean leaders Friday that his government would take them to task for their abuse of human rights.

"Since we cannot remain silent over the human rights of our compatriots in the North any more, we have no choice but to raise the issue of North Korea's human rights situation," Kim said during a meeting with representatives of natives of North Korea's five provinces.

Kim said he would do his best to reunite the Korean peninsula and stressed that reuniting separated families would be his "utmost task" as president.

He would make an effort to regularize exchanges of hometown visitors and mail between South and North Korea at an early date, he said.

"The nuclear development of North Korea is to be stopped absolutely for the survival of the people," he said.

"In pursuing reunification, we should not neglect security and at the same time we should not disregard reunification for the sake of security. Reunification is to be sought necessarily with the consensus of the people," he said.

No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam Discuss Transition at Lunch

SK0501062493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 5 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u and president-elect Kim Yong-sam discussed how to make the transition smooth over lunch Tuesday.

No told Kim the administration had completed its preparation for the handover and would spare no efforts to help the incoming president.

No expressed hope that his government and Kim's transition team could work in close coordination to bring his administration to a successful conclusion.

Kim explained the composition of his 15-member team and its activities, and thanked No for his help.

Their wives, first lady Kim Ok-suk and Son Myong-sun, joined the two men for lunch.

Kim Yong-sam's Appointment Strategy Viewed

SK0401032493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam plans to give a large number of senior officials from the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] responsible positions in his government to maintain close coordination between the ruling party and the administration.

President-elect Kim hopes to appoint many party officials, including representatives, to his cabinet because he believes his administration will need the DLP's unreserved support in its reform policies, Kim's aides said Monday.

He would also recruit presidential secretaries from among party officials, they said.

"Kim will resolutely employ DLP representatives and other top party officials for the posts of cabinet ministers and state ministers at Chongwadae [presidential offices]," one of the aides said.

Kim was convinced, he said, that the administration of President No Tae-u had been unable to carry out some of its national policies because it failed to attune itself with the ruling party, although it controlled the National Assembly following the three-party merger.

Kim believed he had to realize the kind of politics for which responsibility should be carried both by the government and the party, the aide said, requesting anonymity.

The president-elect is expected to place special importance on the presidential secretariat, which will serve as a liaison between his administration and the party.

As such, the chief of the secretariat would be a politician, rather than "a bureaucrat," as in the past, who could put his finger on the pulse of ordinary citizens, the aide said.

Instead of increasing the number of politicians in his cabinet, Kim plans to appoint more bureaucrats to vice and assistant ministerial posts, he said.

In this connection, Kim has decided that there is a serious sign of "unrest" among the nation's civil servants. Kim wants to minimize the "size of personnel movements," particularly among first-through third-grade bureaucrats, to keep the continuity of government and national policies, his aides said.

Specifically, the Kim administration would not conduct a large scale shuffle in such specialized fields as diplomacy, national security, unification, defense, finance and the economy, the aides said.

Kim would also try to scrap the counter-productive practice of the "parachute style of personnel management." Many government and military officials who became redundant were given posts in government-invested or affiliated enterprises and organizations in the past.

In a related development, the presidential transition committee, headed by Chong Won-sik, was inaugurated at new Seoul building in Yoido Monday morning.

Following a brief ceremony, the 15-member committee held its first plenary session to begin its business of receiving briefings on government business from officials of the outgoing administration.

Kim Yong-sam To Encourage Small Industries

SK0701124493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1137 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam, describing small industries as the root of national industry, said Thursday he would do all he could to make the economy deep- and well-rooted.

"Unless small industries, the root of our industry, become strong and viable, our economy cannot grow farther nor can it enter the track of advanced economy," Kim said.

The president-elect made the remarks in a speech at a small industries New Year reception held at the small industries hall at Yoido Thursday afternoon.

"I will boldly rectify the mistaken systems and practices that stood in the way of small industries' activities ranging from the creation of a firm to technolgy development," he said.

Kim also urged small business owners to depart from defeatist sentiments and instead try to surmount present difficulties with a strong determination, and workers to recover the dilligence and creativity which he said the world once envied.

Stating the Korean economy struggles in the quagmire of recession for the fourth straight year, President-elect Kim said there is no miracle in economy and so economic fruits can be reaped only when "we all work hard with sweat."

Chong Chu-yong Says He Paid Yi Chong-chan

SK0701061493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0543 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, head of the United People's Party, drove himself off a political cliff Wednesday by revealing that he gave 5 billion won (6.33 million U.S. dollars) to Yi Chong-chan before the December election.

The prosecution immediately started to investigate Chong's startling claim as both he and Yi broke the law if Yi dropped out of the presidential race in return for the money.

The penalty for giving or taking money to drop out of an election race is up to five years in prison or a fine of 2 million to 5 million won.

If evidence to substantiate the claim is found, Chong and Yi could also both be charged with bribery.

Chong said in his bombshell announcement that he gave 5 billion won to Yi, founder of the New Korea Party (NKP), to help pay the NKP's debts and obligations "after" Yi abandoned his bid for the presidency and decided to join the UPP.

Yi denies Chong's claim and has threatened to sue him for libel.

If Chong and Yi were found guilty, the 5 billion-won bribe would go to the state.

Confession Causes 'Sensation'

SK0701084193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—When Chong Chu-yong made money in business, he received admiration and respect from around the world: When he spent it on politics, he earned national scorn.

Chong caused another sensation Wednesday with the bombshell disclosure that he gave 5 billion won to Rep. Yi Chong-chan, leader of the New Korea Party, to merge their parties.

Rumors had been circulating about the passage of a huge amount of money from Chong to Yi since the announcement of a merger between the United People's Party [UPP] and the New Korea Party during the waning stages of the presidential election campaign.

It is unclear, however, why the billionaire politician chose to expose his transaction to a group of surprised reporters.

Politicians reacted to his disclosure with shock and dismay, so did the man on the street, not only because it raises questions about the integrity of both men but because it could result in legal action against them.

The 77-year-old Chong may have blurted out this confession as just the latest in a series of blunders as he has been under extraordinary stress since his crushing defeat in the Dec. 18 presidential election, some analysts say.

The prosecution is investigating the alleged abuse by Chong and his United People's Party of manpower and money, amounting hundreds of billions of won, provided by the Hyundai Business Group, which Chong founded.

Moreover, Chong is being threatened by two law suits. The Bank of Korea has sued him for making unsubstantiated charges that it printed 300 billion won for campaign funds for Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party.

Another suit was expected to be filed by the New Korea Party after Chong one-sidedly scrapped the merger agreement. The party said Wednesday that it would sue Chong for defamation and for his "dictatorial" measure to annul the merger agreement.

But what perhaps disturbed him more than anything was when on Wednesday morning his No. 2 man, Kim Tong-kil, stormed out of a party conference, saying he would quit as chairman of the party unless Chong stayed out of party affairs.

Yi Chong-chan has officially denied receiving the money from Chong. And there still is a possibility that Chong could retract his statement, saying it was "a mistake," as he did with his claim that the Bank of Korea printed money for Kim.

But many analysts say that Chong cannot gloss over this remark by saying it was a mistake because of the persistent speculation that he offered money to Yi in reward for pulling out of the race for president.

Under the presidential election law, anyone who pays money to someone on condition that they withdraw from the race can be sentenced to up to five years in prison or fined 2 million to 5 million won.

Chong, realizing too late the full magnitude of his error, hastily called his spokesman, Rep. Pyon Chong-il, up from Cheju Island and they conferred Thursday on ways to control the damage.

Following the meeting, Pyon told reporters that the 5 billion won was for the merger and not for Yi to abandon his quest for the presidency.

Pyon, asked about demands by Yi and the New Korea Party to know how the money was supposedly channeled to them, said, "It would be better for both sides not to talk about it."

Pressed by reporters whether the money should be returned as the merger was cancelled, Pyon said that was correct in a legal sense.

"But things are not always done legally in human relationships or in politics," Pyon said.

Some members of the United People's Party believe the problem won't go away, especially if the 5 billion won came from a slush fund created by Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., which is under the prosecution's investigation.

Yi insists that he has not received a penny from Chong.

"If Rep. Chong parted with this money, he should make it clear when, where and to whom he handed it," Yi said, adding that he also wanted to know whether the money was in cash or in checks.

Despite Yi's strenuous denial, there is the lingering question in political circles whether Chong and Yi will be able to avoid legal action if any amount of money changed hands between them. The monetary transaction could not be viewed as unconnected with Yi's decision to abandon his presidential bid.

In any event, analysts say, the survival of Chong's political career and, indeed, that of the United People's Party, depends on further revelations to come in the process of disputes between the UPP and the New Korea Party, if not by official investigation.

Chong Chu-yong To Be Summoned in Libel Case

SK3012115892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0644 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—The prosecution will issue a summons for Chong Chu-yong, leader of the United People's Party (UPP), in the middle of next month for questioning about remarks made during the presidential election, a prosecution source said Wednesday.

Chong said that the Bank of Korea [BOK] had issued an extra 300 billion won (382 million U.S. dollars) and given it to the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]. BOK governor Cho Sun filed a libel suit against Chong Dec. 17 for his assertion.

The prosecution had found that the central bank issued an extra 98.2 billion won in the first two weeks of December, but that the money hadn't been given to the DLP but went to commercial banks, said the source, who asked not to be identified.

The presidential election was conducted Dec. 18.

The prosecution will ask Chong to explain where he got his information about the extra money and why he revealed it to the public.

Meanwhile, the prosecution summoned and questioned To Ki-kap, a senior official of the Korea Security Printing and Minting Corp., in connection with Chong's claim.

Parties Urged To Form New Political Agenda

SK3012061492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Post-Election Politics"]

[Text] The opposition Democratic Party [DP] and the United People's Party [UPP] seem to be gradually recovering from the shock of their defeats in the Dec. 18 presidential election, as they consolidate their organizations while trying to overcome their sense of frustration.

The most urgent task facing the main opposition DP is to fill the power vacuum created by the departure of Kim Tae-chung. The challenging work primarily rests on the shoulders of Rep. Yi Ki-taek, Kim's handpicked successor who led the minority group of lawmakers which merged with the then largest opposition group.

On the other hand, the UPP's unsuccessful presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong has made it clear he will maintain his grip on party power, despite his previous promise to hand over the party reins to other leaders. Chong with his wealth is proving to be indispensable for the makeshift party.

At one point, DP candidate Kim's defeat was attributed to his last-minute alliance with political dissidents and activist students, consequently inviting unfavorable "ideological debates" with majority party contender Kim Yong-sam. A clear defining of its relations with radical elements is now required for the largest opposition party as it seeks to reorient its political course.

The UPP's Chong has attempted to take up what he termed the government's intervention in the election in favor of Kim Yong-sam and to wage a joint political offensive with the DP against the government and the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party]. But Chong's initiative has virtually been rejected by the DP which seems to maintain that the two-way cooperation should be pursued on a case by case basis.

Understandably, the opposition parties have to tackle a host of post-election problems including analyses of the cause of their defeat and the assigning of responsibility for their failures. But any attempt to stir up the political dust making a big thing of the unrequited past is not deemed appropriate.

The opposition forces, as well as the ruling party, now need to shape a new political landscape and create a new inter-party relationship, in conformity with the nation's ushering in an "era of civilian rule." Any excessive attachment to the past could hinder the creation of a new political order at this critical transition stage.

Campaign Requirement Law Said Unconstitutional

SK2912044192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0227 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—Pak Chan-chong, head of the New Political Reform Party, filed a legal challenge Tuesday against the presidential election law, saying that it violated the Constitution by requiring campaign deposits.

Pak filed his petition with the constitution court against the election law, which says a presidential candidate who wins less than 7 percent of the vote forfeits his deposit of 300 million won.

Pak fell short of the mark by 0.6 percentage point in the Dec. 18 presidential election, and lost his deposit.

"The presidential election law's clauses 1 and 7 of article 26, which does not accept the registration of a presidential candidate without the large deposit and allows the return of the deposit only if the candidate wins a certain level of votes, are a breach of the constitutional rights of equality and official duties," Pak says in his petition.

Economic Prospects, Policy for 1993 Viewed

SK2912032392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0038 GMT 29 Dec 92

[By Pak Se-chin]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—1993 will be a critical turning point for South Korea as it tries to become an industrialized nation under the leadership of a new president.

But welfare is sure to be the be-all and end-all of economic policy under Kim Yong-sam, who put great emphasis on tackling economic woes in his presidential campaign.

Korea was praised as one of the fastest-growing Asian economies along with Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong in recent decades, but started to limp after tripping over external and internal obstacles.

To recover, it must cure internal maladies such as economic cynicism among workers and beat back external offensives to be launched by the Uruguay Round global trade talks.

The hottest problem, however, is keeping the inflation genie in the bottle.

Price stability usually increases the real income of workers, improving living standards and boosting exports by strengthening the competitive power of Korean commodities in foreign markets.

The new year will also be a milestone for balancing international payments and lowering interest rates, both of which will pave the way for smooth opening and promotion of the economy.

In fact, the stable price structure achieved during 1986-1988 has weakened in recent years as inflation reached 9.4 percent in 1990 and 9.3 percent in 1991.

Consumer price hikes were kept down to 4.5 percent in 1992 by the government's dogged stabilization policies.

But it is still something like being at the edge of a cliff, analysts say, as another economic takeoff requires inflation to be under 3 percent, similar to the advanced countries.

The most urgent task is controlling inflation, which plays against healthy economic growth and creates a "bubble" economy.

Price instability would cause investors to bury their money in real estate, making it hard for ordinary people to buy homes, so the new government is likely to put a priority on keeping prices in check as the housing problem was a major headache for preceding administrations.

The nation also needs to pursue economic restructuring and reforms steadily to protect the stabilization that started to take root this year.

To look back, Korea enjoyed annual 12-percent to 13-percent growth in 1986-88 with national income increasing sharply and the state purse getting fat, but it also had to taste the ill effects of overconsumption and high inflation shaking the base of steady economic growth.

If a growth-first policy, which leads to high inflation more often than not, is pushed above all else, improvement in the economic structure may be delayed.

Another thing hard to overlook in discussing economic issues for next year is that Korea faces the need to internationalize its economy using economic stability as the cornerstone.

Export-drive policies without opening of the domestic market aren't tolerated any more by the rapidly-changing global economic order.

One of the proofs is the Uruguay Round trade talks, in which 108 countries are waging a tug of war over opening agricultural and service markets.

Korea must not only battle against late-comers such as China and Southeast Asian nations in the international market but must overcome protective moves by advanced nations such as the United States.

To survive, the Korean industry is in dire need of sharpening its competitive power to prepare for a sales war with foreign raiders on the domestic and foreign markets.

The three economic mainstays of government, business and consumers should join forces and do their utmost to improve national economic power.

The government has to draw up policies for the emerging new era that get people to actively participate in advancing the economic structure.

Enterprises need to engross themselves in developing new technologies and commodities, and creating high value-added goods, and consumers must tighten their belts and be thrifty for a rosy future.

Analysts project per capita gross national product to rise to 10,000 U.S. dollars in three to four years, and over 20,000 dollars in the year 2000 from the current 6,500-dollar level, if things go well in 1993.

Last but not least, economic reforms to rectify imbalance in distribution should be sought in 1993 as part of efforts to root out class differences in preparation for national unification.

PRC, SRV, Russia Expand Flights to Seoul

SK0401032693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—China, Vietnam and Russia are starting or expanding air service to South Korea as demands grow amid bettering bilateral ties.

Air China put a 246-seat B-747-SP on weekly Seoul-Tianjin flights in April last year, China Eastern introduced a 142-seat MD-72 between Seoul and Shanghai in January last year, China Northern flew a charter flight between Seoul and Shenyang in September last year and China Southern flew a charter flight Dec. 27 between Seoul and Guangzhou and is to start weekly flights.

Chinese airline officials say their load factor began low but has reached 80-90 percent in peak periods.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China was divided into seven regional carriers in 1987 with Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Northern Airlines and China Southern Airlines flying to Seoul.

Seoul and Beijing normalized ties on Aug. 24 last year.

Aeroflot of Russia started regular twice weekly flights between Seoul and Moscow in March 1990 and weekly charter flights between Seoul and Khabarovsk in September 1991. Seoul and Moscow set up diplomatic relations on Sept. 30, 1990.

An Aeroflot official says that the load factor is 85-90 percent in peak season and 60 percent in low season and it plans to replace its 150-seat IL-62 with a 185-seat A-310 in April.

Vietnam Airlines is to fly a 252-seat A-300 charter plane between Seoul and Ho Chi Minh city on Jan. 13 and eight charter flights are scheduled by March.

South Korea and Vietnam normalized diplomatic relations on Dec. 22 last year.

Unification Board on Kim Il-song's Address

SK0301091393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 3 (YONHAP)—Pyongyang is likely to return to talks with Seoul after the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise, Team Spirit, this spring, the National Unification Board predicted Sunday.

Analyzing North Korean President Kim Il-song's New Year message, a board spokesman said it was noteworthy that Kim departed from his habit of denouncing Seoul and Washington in his statement.

Kim emphasized independence in the course of realizing reunification and expressed willingness to hold talks with anyone without asking his background.

The spokesman said North Korea was expected to actively seek to improve relations with the United States and other western countries, while maintaining its strong grip on its people.

North Korea watchers in Seoul say that Kim Il-song has opened the door for talks with president-elect Kim Yong-sam by airing willingness to talk with anyone. North Korea vehemently criticized Kim Yong-sam during the presidential election campaign last month.

Kim Il-song's omission of the stereotyped demands, including withdrawal of the U.S. forces in South Korea, shows that he is less interested in outside matters than domestic issues such as economic difficulties, they say.

South Korea and the United States did not conduct the annual Team Spirit exercise last year but agreed to resume it this year in case North Korea fails to accept inter-Korean nuclear inspections.

Interest in Investing in Vietnam Increases

SK0701100293 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 7 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] ROK enterprises are taking a rapidly growing interest in investment in Vietnam instead of China and Indonesia, which were the center of their interest for a while.

The Export and Import Bank said on 6 January that its Overseas Investment Information Center had 123 inquiries on investment in Vietnam in 1992, a 30.9 percent increase over the 94 inquiries in 1991.

The number of inquiries on investment in China remained the same, with 384 in 1991 and 385 in 1992. The number of inquiries on investment in Indonesia was 223 in 1991 and 78 in 1992, decreasing by two-thirds.

The number of inquiries on investment in Philippines was 79 in 1991 and 44 in 1992, decreasing by almost half. Among these four most popular countries for overseas investment by ROK companies, only Vietnam is gaining rapidly in inquiries, accounting for 11.7 percent of all investment consultations in 1992, ranking second behind China (36.6 percent). In 1991, the number of consultations on investment in Vietnam accounted for only 6.3 percent.

Because their interest in investment in Vietnam is rapidly increasing, ROK companies are expected to accelerate their business expansion into Vietnam.

Construction Minister To Visit PRC

SK0601094193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 6 (YONHAP)—Construction Minister So Yong-taek will visit Beijing on Thursday to meet with Vice Premier Wu Xueqian and other senior Chinese officials for talks on mutual cooperation in the construction sector.

So, invited by Construction Minister Hou Jie, will attend the Korea-China construction ministerial meeting in Beijing on Friday and sign a memorandum of understanding.

The memorandum, which covers construction, follows on from President No Tae-u's visit to China in September.

The countries are to exchange construction personnel, data and material, and their construction companies will seek cooperation and joint participation in projects.

So said in a press conference Wednesday that there was much room for bilateral cooperation in the construction field if a combination of South Korea's technology and experience and China's cheap labor is made.

"China intends to join the general agreement on tariffs and trade. If the multilateral Uruguay Round negotiation is successful, the Chinese construction market will be opened," he said.

Finance Minister Urges Major 1993 Tax Reform

SK3112041092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0215 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Yi Yong-man said Thursday in his New Year's message that major tax reforms in 1993 would help spread the burden more evenly.

Early implementation of second-stage interest rate deregulation and restructuring of the financial industry are among the top tasks for his ministry to tackle in 1993, he said.

Yi said that the basic direction of government financial policy would lie in sustaining stability, sharpening competitiveness and energizing the economy.

The government would continue its efforts to lower market interest rates below 12 percent to reduce the cost of financing in 1993, he said.

Industry Predicted To Make Weak Start in January

SK3112032392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Industrial activity will be slack in January, the Federation of Korean Industries [FKI] said Thursday.

FKI's business survey index [BSI] is 91 for January, off from 94 this month. The BSI, which represents industrial activity, began to decline in October.

The slowdown was due to cooling of investment psychology, reduced domestic demand and a delayed export recovery to the advanced countries, FKI said.

Production in most areas will be dull and domestic demand will fall further. Exports will remain weak as the advanced countries are to step up import restrictions and arrivals of letters of credit are down.

Liquidity will improve slightly and the labor supply will be better. Paper, food and beverage sectors will be profitable, and the rest poor.

FKI questioned 500 principal mining and industrial companies in its survey.

Ministry Estimates 1992 Trade Deficit

SK0401044293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—Last year's trade deficit was an estimated 4.92 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis, almost half the red ink of 1991, Trade and Industry Ministry officials said Monday.

December's exports stopped at a lackluster 7.11 billion dollars, 7.6 percent less than in December 1991, but the overall 1992 figure showed a 6.8-percent increase to 76.78 billion dollars, they said.

December's imports went up 0.7 percent to 6.86 billion dollars compared to a year before, but the increase was only 0.2 percent to 81.7 billion dollars for the entire year.

The performance means a trade deficit of 4.74 billion dollars less than in 1991. But last month's performance predicts sluggish exports for early 1993, according to the officials.

Letters of credit arrivals amounted to 3.38 billion dollars in December, 5.3 percent less than the same month a year before and the second consecutive monthly decrease.

Nonetheless, ministry officials looked forward to a smaller trade deficit in 1993, expecting an 8-percent export increase of 83 billion dollars but only 6-percent import increase of 86.5 billion dollars.

They said they hope to keep the deficit at 3.5 billion dollars for the year.

Heavy and chemical industry products, mostly to developing nations, are to lead this year's exports, while labor-intensive light industry products to advanced countries are not expected to do well.

Key imports will be in construction due to Korea's facility investment promotion and relaxation of building restrictions, the officials said.

DPRK Economy Shrinks for 3d Straight Year

SK0701022493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0124 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 7 (YONHAP)—North Korea's economy shrank last year for the third straight year, and the South Korean Government suspects that sluggish external trade and industrial production were to blame.

North Korea's gross national product declined 3.7 percent in 1990 and 5.2 percent in 1991, government sources said Thursday. They estimated the shrinkage at 5 percent last year.

They said the economic isolation of the hard-line stalinist state increased because of sliding trade with former Soviet republics, China and Japan.

Trade between Pyongyang and Beijing totaled 610.5 million U.S. dollars in 1991, up 26.5 percent from a year earlier, but dropped to 437 million dollars in January-August last year.

North Korea bought 524.8 millon dollars of oil and grain from China in 1991 but only 347 million dollars worth in the first eight months of 1992 because China demanded it pay in cash. This caused a lack of food and oil in the North.

Pyongyang-Tokyo trade rose 6.5 percent to 507.6 million dollars in 1991 from 1990 but North Korea's imports from Japan dipped 1.7 percent to 164 million dollars in the first nine months last year from a year earlier and exports crashed 9.2 percent to 350 million dollars.

North Korea produced 4.8 million tons of grain last year, up 6-7 percent from 4.5 million tons in 1991, but demand was 6.5 million tons.

The sources said North Korean factories operated at an average 60 percent of capacity last year.

One said that unless the North undertakes drastic measures to attract foreign investment, it will have difficulty overcoming the slump.

DPRK Said To Reorganize Economic Structure

SK0101052693 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 31 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] North Korea's external trade organizations are changing. North Korea decided to integrate the Ministry of Foreign Trade, which was in charge of external trade, with the Ministry of External Economic Affairs, into the External Economy Commission, which has been functioning in name only. North Korea is going to reorganize and expand this Commission. It is also replacing members of its overseas missions with experts on economic affairs.

This was confirmed and revealed by the ROK Trade Promotion Corporation on 30 December based on the reports presented by its overseas trade offices. This corporation observed that such a move by North Korea is part of a plan to organize a strong external economic organization in an attempt to break through its economic crisis.

The External Economy Commission will integrate the planning, execution, and control of overall activities related to trade, which were carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, with the work related to marketing and inducement of joint-venture projects which were carried out by the Ministry of External Economic Affairs. This commission, therefore, will emerge as an organization to practically supervise and control external economic activities.

At the same time, North Korea set up a policy to replace members of its overseas missions with experts on economic affairs. As for the North Korean Embassy in Iran, North Korea is going to replace nine of its 13 embassy members with economic experts.

On 11 December, North Korea appointed Kim Tal-hyon to the post of vice premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the State Planning Commission, and Yi Song-tae to chairman of the External Economy Commission.

SRV Renames Liaison Office as Embassy

SK0801032093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0215 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 8 (YONHAP)—The Vietnamese Liaison Office in Seoul was renamed the Vietnamese Embassy on Friday as a result of normalization of relations between the two countries on Dec. 22. The embassy held a signboard hanging ceremony at its Hannam-tong premises to start official business.

Garlic Exports to North Reach 1,000 Tons

SK0601101593 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The ROK shipped 1,000 tons of garlic to North Korea from Inchon port on 11 December 1992 as inter-Korean direct trade, it was learned today.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, based on a direct trade agreement signed in Beijing in September last year between South Korea's Agro-Fishery Products Distribution Corporation and North Korea's Korea Chongbong International Development Company, the Agro-Fishery Products Distribution Corporation obtained approval from the National Unification Board for the import and export of agricultural produce between the North and South and exported the ROK garlic to North Korea as a first lot.

According to the agreement for direct inter-Korean trade, which is to take the form of barter trade, the South is supposed to export 5,000 tons of garlic and 500 tons of onions of ROK origin to North Korea. In return, the South is supposed to import 1,300 tons of buckwheat and 100 tons of red beans of North Korean origin. Meanwhile, 260 tons of buckwheat of North Korean origin, equivalent in value to the 1,000 tons of the garlic of ROK origin, is expected to be imported around the end of next month.

Burma

Commission Chairman Welcomes Convention Delegates

BK0701152393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Excerpts] A ceremony to welcome National Convention delegates by the chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC] was held at 0900 this morning at the Union Hall on Kyaikkasan Road. Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the NCCC, minister for religious affairs, and commander of Yangon [Rangoon] military command, attended the ceremony and delivered a welcome speech.

The ceremony was also attended by NCCC vice chairmen Maj. Gen. Maung Thint, minister for the development of border areas and national races, and Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister for information; U Aung Toe, chief justice and chairman of the Work Committee for Convening the National Convention; U Tha Tun, attorney general and vice chairman; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, military inspector general and chairmen of the Management Committee for Convening the National Convention and vice chairmen; members of the NCCC; members of the work committee and management committee; chairmen and members from the various subcommittees; delegates from political parties; delegates from elected representatives; delegates from national races; delegates from workers; delegates from the intelligentsia; delegates from peasants; delegates from the public services; and invited delegates.

At the ceremony Brig. Gen. Tha Htay, director of supplies and transport of the Defense Ministry and chairman of the messing and reception subcommittee under the Management Committee for Convening the National Convention, acted as secretary of the meeting.

In his welcome speech, NCCC chairman Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt wished for the spiritual and physical well-being of the National Convention delegates. He said 702 delegates, including the national races who live together, drink the same water, and go on the same journey, have arrived to discuss and to present their suggestions at the National Convention. He next thanked and welcomed them. He noted all, with new mind and body, will be discussing and presenting their views at the forthcoming National Convention beginning from 9 January 1993. He explained, at this point he would like to present one matter as a coincidence. He quoted National Leader General Aung San's speech of 20 January 1947 delivered at the Shwedagon Pagoda central square: Race is the name given to a group who shares the good and the bad, stays closely and together since time immemorial with the same attitude. Although we should give consideration to race, religion, and language spoken, the fact of the matter is the desire to live together in accordance with the Wunthanu Rekhitha sayings. He remarked we should all remember the national leader's desires, all of us should recognize General Aung San as a national leader and consider the (?national cause) as General Aung San's way. He said just like General Aung San's words, it is a coincidence that General Aung San held his meeting in January 1947 and the forthcoming National Convention is also on January 1993. He explained it as his reason to bring up the matter. [passage omitted]

He hoped delegates, including the national races, will successfully convene the National Convention and lay down the basic principles needed for drawing a stable long-term constitution for the country. He explained the commission as well as the people are waiting in expectation. He quoted Thuwana Thama Zataka, one of the ten Buddhist Zatakas [Buddhist legends] about two blind hermit parents who made a single wish to see their dead son carrying a pot of gold, and reminded that the populace is optimistically waiting in anticipation and urged delegates to discuss and give good suggestions.

He noted it is the cold season now and since the delegates had come from all the states and divisions, the management committee has made the necessary arrangements for the health and well-being of the delegates so that they could attend the National Convention from begining to end. He also explained boarding and messing arrangements are also made to meet full requirements and sports facilities include traditional chinlon, badminton, and golf. Myo Nyunt next said the Trade Ministry and the Cooperative Ministry have opened shops for the delegates to buy necessary goods. He explained the NCCC had formed the management committee and other work committees to work for the success of the National Convention and reminded the delegates to inform the management committee if there is any need. He finally urged the delegates to always bear in mind the three national objectives [nondisintegration of the Union, nondisintegration of national solidarity, and ensuring consolidation and perpetuation of sovereignty] and the National Leader General Aung San's speech in their discussions to set the basic principles for drawing the new constitution and also urged the delegates to work in unity.

Tea and cakes were then served to the delegates. The NCCC chairman Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt left the Union Hall at 1000 after cordially greeting the delegates.

Officials Urge Rohingya Refugees To Return

BK0701160893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Pimpyu, Burma, Jan 7 (AFP)—Burmese officials and residents in this tiny frontier village Thursday said it was safe for the 280,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees now living in Bangladesh to return to their homes.

"Let them come back and settle (in their villages) ... we will give them full security and assistance," Colonel

Than Aye, director of Burmese immigration headquarters NASAK, told a group of visiting Bangladeshi journalists.

In nearby Kyaulega hamlet, however, several villagers whispered to a few of the journalists that persecution was still continuing in the area and that it was unsafe for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh to return.

They said the Burmese authorities were still continuing to use Rohingyas as forced labour, but denied that there had been instances of torture.

Burmese officials dismissed the claims as propaganda, saying that villagers who had been trying to grab land and houses of the refugees were now trying to scare them into not returning and reclaiming their property.

"We have received such complaints and are looking into them," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The journalists were the first to be allowed into Burma from Bangladesh since relations between the two countries became strained more than a year ago by the massive influx of the Muslim refugees fleeing their homes alleging persecution at the hands of Burmese soldiers.

Pimpyu, which is only six kilometres (four miles) from the narrow Naaf River that divides Bangladesh and Burma is home to one of the five reception camps the Burmese authorities opened last year under a bilateral agreement for "safe and voluntary" repatriation of the refugees back home.

More than 8,500 of the refugees, who Bangladesh says volunteered to return, have been repatriated in the past four months. Some 866 of them have been received at this centre and then resettled in their abandoned homes.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which had been backing Bangladesh government in aiding the Rohingyas, has charged Dhaka with coerced repatriation.

Than Aye said the camp, comprising several bamboo- and mud-made shelters, was opened in May last year with a team of immigration, customs and medical staff to receive the refugees and arrange their resettlement.

On arrival, the identities of the refugees are verified, they are given a medical check up and each family is given a packet of kichen utensils, food and clothes.

They are also provided with bamboo and other construction materials to repair their houses, Than Aye said.

In Kyaulega, 29 refugees have returned from Bangladesh. Both the returnees and Muslims who had stayed there said the situation was normal.

"The area had a very good paddy harvest and we are raising now winter vegetable crops," said Abul Khair, 60.

Khair stayed there with his family and looked after the nearby house of his widowed sister Bodu Jamal, 35, who had fled to Bangladesh with her four children.

Jamal said she had returned to her house 15 days ago and had no complaints.

At the reception centre, Abdur Rahim, 38 and Abul Basher, 50, from a neighbouring village said they along with their families were in a group of 1,465 refugees who returned from Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Both said they were had been taken [as received] back to their houses by the Burmese authorities. Their neighbours, who they had not seen for 11 months, had been "cooperative and helpful," Rahim said.

The elderly Imam (Muslim priest) of Kyaulega village's lone mosque, Siddiq Ahmed, said he did not go to Bangladesh and had been doing his religious job without a break.

1,429 Repatriated 6 Jan

BK0801080093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, three delegations led by camp officials from the country on the other side transferred 1,429 returnees—700 males and 729 females—from 323 households to our three reception camps on 6 January.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Reportage on Thai Premier Chuan's Visit

7 Jan Trade Speech

BK0801034193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 93 p 26

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday said ASEAN countries will contribute to the framework of the liberalised global trading system with "deeds" and not "words". Mr Chuan made the statement during a luncheon speech to Malaysian businessmen in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He began the speech by saying that 1993 marked the introduction of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, which signified the intention of all ASEAN members to carry out effective trade liberalisation. The trade arrangement, which was expected to be introduced over a 15-year timeframe, showed every likelihood of moving faster than expected, considering the commitment and accommodating attitude of member countries.

The expected and long-overdue conclusion of the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks would also push ASEAN countries towards greater liberalisation, he said. He was confident that ASEAN would contribute to the promotion of the multilateral trading system with actions, not words.

Thailand was not concentrating only on tariff reduction, but was committed to reducing or eliminating non-tariff barriers, which constituted a serious obstacle to trade. Every aspect of trade and economic relations would be enhanced.

Thailand was fully committed to the realisation of the 1992 Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economm Cooperation.

He said trade liberalisation in ASEAN would definitely be strengthened both in the bilateral and unilateral contexts. He wanted to encourage the private sector to make full use of the new opportunities and to offer suggestions for possible improvements.

The trade liberalisation movement in ASEAN should be complemented by the focus of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) on boosting the multilateral free trading system. He saw APEC as offering a genuine vehicle for the promotion of economic cooperation among the developed and developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

"I do hope that the coming 21st century will be the 'Pacific Century' a popular prophesy that has every chance to come true," he said. But with growing economic interdependence, all ASEAN members would be affected by events outside the region.

The assumption of office by Bill Clinton's administration should bring with it a welcome boost to the world economy, because the healthier US economy hoped for by the Clinton administration would have a lot of influence on the international economy. But if the resuscitation of the US economy was not successful, the situation would have to be reassessed.

The emergence of economic groupings among major powers, such as the EC Single Market and NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], posed both challenges and opportunities.

He said lucrative markets of affluent consumers were there waiting to be reached, but the challenge was how to get in. It was feared that such groupings could turn protectionist, despite preaching trade liberalisation.

In any case, their attitudes would have a great bearing on the outcome of the Uruguay Round.

What was more worrying was a possible decline of direct foreign investment in ASEAN countries, he said, although this fear had not materialised yet in the overall ASEAN context.

Japan, the biggest investor in the region, invested US$4,679 million in 1980 and US$6,779 million in 1991. But the situation of each ASEAN member country varied. Singapore and Thailand had experienced declining direct investment from Japan, while other ASEAN members had received increasing direct investment.

The possible diversion of direct foreign investment to the emerging economic groupings such as the EC Single Market and NAFTA was a perpetual reminder that smaller countries had to unite, to make themselves attractive for foreign investment and to increase their competitiveness.

Other possibilities and options were available, he said. With more emphasis on market-oriented economic policies, the Indochinese countries had opened up their respective economies to a greater extent than in the past. There was a strong possibility of cooperation among the countries of the Mekong Basin—Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, China and Thailand.

Networks in various fields could be implemented, particularly in transport and communications. A new road network was expected to become a reality. He saw this as providing particular benefits to Southeast Asian countries.

"It is my conviction that the higher plane of ASEAN economic cooperation will contribute much to the realisation of the Mekong Basin economic cooperation and vice versa," he said.

"The ultimate outcome will be a Southeast Asia which is attractive to foreign investment, a Southeast Asia which is internationally competitive, a Southeast Asia whose potentials are finally realised."

Chuan Emphasizes Economic Liberalization

BK0801052093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai emphasized at the business meeting with the private sector of Malaysia that both Thailand and Malaysia have been committed to some economic policies while letting their respective private sectors drive the engine of growth. In his speech at the working lunch at the Crown Prince's Hotel in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the prime minister outlined his government's policy and the direction it wished to take the country to. First, he pointed out democratization process with progress hand in hand with economic liberalization both vital to Thailand's role and ability to contribute towards greater progress and prosperity in Southeast Asia. The Thai Government, he said, would maintain fiscal and monetary discipline while making the country's fiscal and monetary systems more flexible and efficient. Tax structure will be further improved to reflex growth in production, trade, export, and domestic investment. Capital and money markets will be internationalized and the money market deregulated. An export-import bank will be established to finance international trade. The prime minister further cited income redistribution, promotion of free trade, and more economic networking, and interdependence with neighboring countries.

Agrees To Lobby for EAEC

BK0801065693 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Thailand has agreed to lobby for support for the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC. Thai prime minister, Mr. Chuan Likphai, said Thailand will explain to concerned countries the concept and the rationale of the EAEC.

For a start Thailand will raise the matter with the Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, during his official visit to Thailand next week. Thailand will also take the opportunity to explain the concept to the greatest opponents of the EAEC—the United States. Mr. Chuan Likphai was speaking at a news conference at the end of his three-day visit to Malaysia. He leaves for home today.

He said Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir had explained the EAEC concept tc him in Thailand and is now convinced it is just intended to be a consultation forum and not a trade and protectionist bloc. According to Chuan Likphai, many of the countries do not understand the EAEC and if proper explanation is given, he is confident that they will support it.

He also said that Thailand will encourage its fishing industry to go on joint ventures with their Malaysian counterparts. This is in line with the Thai policy of encouraging Thai investments in the region. It would also add value to the fishing industry.

Holds News Conference

BK0801070493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0608 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 8 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Thailand has proposed that its fishing boats traversing Malaysian waters fishing elsewhere notify Malaysian authorities in advance to avoid detention for alleged poaching.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, who disclosed this Friday, said the details of the vessels and the date the boats would use Malaysian waters would be among the particulars to be passed on to the Malaysian authorities.

Speaking at a press conference here at the end of his three-day official visit here, he said details of the proposal would be worked out by officials of the two countries.

Chuan had raised with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Thursday the issue of Malaysian detention of Thai fishing boats, saying they passed through Malaysian waters after fishing elsewhere and were not poaching as claimed by Malaysia.

During the talks, both sides agreed to set up a surveillance mechanism to determine whether the fishermen fished in Malaysian waters or elsewhere.

On the joint-venture projects involving the fishing industry, Chuan said the matter had been agreed upon in principle by his predecessor Anan Panyarachun and Dr Mahathir when the former visited Malaysia last year.

"On both issues (the projects and fishing boats), both sides are anxious to see progress and the joint committee on the matter would work out the details," he added.

Joint Commission To Discuss Borders

BK0801072693 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The Malaysia-Thailand Joint Commission is to meet soon to iron out several unresolved issues, particularly common border demarcation. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today certain matters came to light and the two governments acknowledged that they had to be resolved. He was speaking to reporters after Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri called on him at the Foreign Ministry in Kuala Lumpur. Sunsiri is accompanying Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on a three-day official visit to Malaysia, which ends today.

Datuk Abdullah said the joint commission meeting, JCM, which will be held in Bangkok by June, would discuss the progress of both sides of the Malaysia-Thai border review committee which was agreed upon at the JCM in Langkawi last year.

The committee will further discuss matters raised at yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and Chuan Likphai, to overcome problems pertaining to their common border. The joint commission has foreign ministers of both countries as joint chairmen.

Datuk Abdullah said the commission would also look into other common problems like fishing in an effort to avoid disputes among the authorities concerned.

Private Joint Ventures Urged

BK0801101093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] The private sectors in Malaysia and Thailand have been asked to form joint venture companies to undertake massive regional investment projects like in the Indochinese countries.

The minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, says the two countries could contribute towards this cooperation based on their respective special advantages.

Thailand's advantage is that it is situated close to Indochina, while Malaysia has specific expertise which can stimulate potential projects in the region having a small economic base.

She says the private sectors in the two countries must immediately grab the economic opportunities in both countries which have long-term growth potential.

On the presence of Malaysia's private sector in Vietnam, she says they have identified existing potentials there and had already ventured into certain sectors like plantation, mining, real estate, manufacturing, and trading.

Chuan Departs 8 Jan

BK0801113093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0912 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 8 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai left for home Friday after a three-day official visit to Malaysia.

He was seen off at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob, who was the minister-in-attendance.

Earlier, Dr. Mahathir called on Chuan to bid the Thai leader farewell.

Chuan, who led a high-level 80-member delegation that included cabinet ministers and prominent businessmen, arrived here last Wednesday for his first official visit to Malaysia since becoming prime minister last September.

Sony's Morita Addresses Businessmen

OW0801135893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 8 KYODO—Japanese business leader Akio Morita urged Japan and its Asian neighbors Friday to be ready to sacrifice national interests in favor of regional economic integration and an eventual borderless world economy.

The Sony Corp. chairman disagreed with some Asians who view regionalism in Europe and North America as protectionist moves.

"I see these developments in a more positive light," Morita told a gathering in Kuala Lumpur of businesspeople, academics and journalists from East Asia.

He described the moves as "a strong and welcome step on the way to creating an interlocked and interrelated global marketplace."

In the same context, Morita supported the Malaysian-proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), strongly opposed by the United States as a potentially protectionist trade bloc.

He lauded members of the European Community (EC) for "their collective willingness to sacrifice part of their sovereignty and national interests for the sake of their community."

"I believe this vision of neighboring countries setting aside their minor differences in favor of cooperation is one that has great value and meaning for the nations of Asia as well."

Fears voiced by some Japanese about a possible "fortress Europe" or "fortress North America" are "invalid and rather ironic" because of a "fortress Japan" which is "not as open as the world's second-largest economy should be," he said.

Morita sent a shock wave through the Japanese business community a year ago, just ahead of annual wage talks, by proposing that corporate Japan must develop a more people-oriented management approach such as giving greater priority to sharing of profits with workers.

Cambodia

Ranariddh on Possible Noncooperation With UN

BK0801024893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] In an interview with a Voice of America correspondent on 5 January, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] said the statement by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, that he would stop cooperating with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction if they have not put an end to political terrorist acts against the Cambodian people and other political parties, especially the FUNCINPEC Party, is a historic decision. Prince Norodom Ranariddh added that the prince's decision came in the wake of a spate of most barbarous and cruel assassinations of the FUNCINPEC party members [words indistinct].

On 13 December, Prince Norodom Sihanouk issued a statement asking UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] head Akashi and the Phnom Penh faction to do away with the killing. But so far assassination of the FUNCINPEC party members has continued to increase. UNTAC is incapable and unwilling to do away with the killing. UNTAC's attitude completely contradicts the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh further said that if UNTAC keeps acting in this manner, the international community's efforts in sending its members and troops and in giving hundreds of million dollars to Cambodia will come to naught. He added that with UNTAC's indifference to running the five ministries, specifically the Police Department, a neutral political environment can never exist. This has allowed the Phnom Penh faction to commit an increasing number of cruel and oppressive acts; kill students at various universities, faculties, and high schools who are supporters of diverse political parties; and threaten and bully the people and Buddhist monks in various localities. And this is the motive of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's second decision to halt his cooperation with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh stated: I feel extreme pain to witness the Phnom Penh faction's assassination of my fellow compatriots. I decide, therefore, like the prince, to complain to UNTAC head Akashi that if the Phnom Penh faction continues such killing and if UNTAC cannot eradicate these cruel political acts, I will put an end to my cooperation with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh side.

Sihanouk Complains of Being UNTAC Puppet

BK0801030593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday charged that his moral influence and popularity had been used to legitimise decisions contrary to his "patriotic ideals."

The prince made the point in a message to his supporters that was released on the eve of a scheduled meeting in Beijing between him and the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi.

The prince has been in Beijing for about a month. Though the prince had cited health reasons for going there, a high-ranking Thai official nevertheless said it was also a "very meaningful" move.

"When Prince Sihanouk perceives that something is wrong, he tells the world about it," the official added.

In a letter earlier sent to Mr Akashi, the prince made it clear that he would not discuss political issues at the meeting today. But UNTAC yesterday announced that its police component would take on powers of arrest in order to deal with political and ethnic violence.

The prince on Monday cited continued "crimes" against the Sihanoukist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party in announcing his decision to stop cooperating with UNTAC.

The prince told his supporters, in the message made available here yesterday, that he had been advised by his Chinese doctors to spend "a few months more" in Beijing for treatment of serious eye and heart conditions.

He slammed UN officials for being critical of his absence from Cambodia at such an important juncture. He challenged them to verify the state of his health with his Chinese doctors. He said they were heaping blame on him because they had perceived that their "salvage Cambodia" mission had "a 95 per cent chance of being a shameful and historic fiasco."

Hitting back with the public message to his supporters, he said he had "no power whatsoever" as the president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC).

"I am but a 'puppet' whose moral influence and popularity are exploited...to give legitimacy and legality to decisions often contrary to my patriotic ideas," he charged.

Sihanouk Meets With Akashi in Beijing 8 Jan

HK0801094593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan 8 (AFP)—Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk held here Friday his first meeting with the chief of the U.N. contingent in his country since announcing he would no longer cooperate with the peacekeepers.

"The tete-a-tete meeting lasted two hours at the prince's residence," said a spokesman for Sihanouk, who represents Cambaodia's sovereignty as head of the Supreme National Council grouping different Cambodian parties.

The spokesman refused to make any further comment, saying only that Sihanouk would issue a statement soon.

Yasushi Akashi, chief of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), arrived Thursday in Beijing, where Sihanouk is undergoing medical treatment.

Relations between the prince and UNTAC have been strained recently. Sihanouk announced Monday he would no longer cooperate with UNTAC or with the Phnom Penh government, citing unabated politically motivated attacks on his followers.

Sihanouk, not placing blame for the attacks on any party, said the U.N. contingent in Cambodia could no longer assure the peace. The peacekeepers are trying to safeguard the Cambodian peace treaty agreed upon in 1991 and pave the way for elections this year.

Application of the accords, which officially put an end to 13 years of war in Cambodia, has been threatened by political attacks and the intransigence of the Khmer Rouge, former allies of Sihanouk.

'Cordial Atmosphere' Prevails

OW0801095693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 8 KYODO—The United Nations representative in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, met with Prince Norodom Sihanouk on Friday in a bid to secure the Cambodian leader's continued cooperation in the country's fragile peace process.

Sihanouk wrote to Akashi on Monday, saying he has decided to cease cooperating with the U.N. Transitional

Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) because of its failure to put an end to political violence.

A source close to Akashi said the two men met for around two hours Friday morning at Sihanouk's official Beijing residence.

"The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and yielded positive results," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Akashi is not prepared to reveal details of the meeting until he has made a full report to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus- Ghali, the source said, but he said Akashi has scheduled a press conference for Monday afternoon in Phnom Penh.

Akashi was scheduled to meet China's Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin later Friday to discuss the Cambodian issue, the source said. He will return to Cambodia on Saturday.

Much of the violence in Cambodia has been directed against Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who leads the country's largest political party, the United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia.

Sihanouk, who is in Beijing for medical treatment, was in fair health and took full part in the discussions, the source said.

His stated intention to effectively boycott UNTAC comes as a bitter blow to Akashi, who heads a multimillion dollar peacekeeping mission already confronted with armed opposition from intransigent Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

All parties in the peace process agree that the U.N. mission in Cambodia cannot hope to succeed without full cooperation from Sihanouk, who is widely considered to be the only person capable of uniting his country.

UN Force Empowered To Arrest, 'Use Force'

BK0701085693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 7 (AFP)—The U.N. peacekeeping force in Cambodia said Thursday it was taking on the powers of arrest in order to stem the country's bloody wave of political and ethnic violence.

U.N. peacekeepers will be able to arrest Cambodians for crimes, put them in local prisons and supervise their trial under the existing Cambodian court system, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

Peacekeepers are prepared to enter Khmer Rouge zones and to use force if necessary to apprehend suspects, he said.

The new measure, signed by U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi before he left for Beijing for a meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, also provides for a witness protection program and guarantees suspects the right to a defense in court.

However, Cambodia does not, according to all observers, have an independent judiciary. The functioning of a proper court system in zones controlled by guerrilla groups that do not even have prisons is questionable.

But Falt said UNTAC had already run a training course for magistrates and that some of those newly trained could take up the bench under U.N. supervision.

"UNTAC will follow up on all acts of political violence within the existing administrative structures under whose jurisdiction a crime has occurred," Falt said. "If justice is not served it is the authorities who will be held accountable for all acts of political violence in areas under their control."

UNTAC also has the power to remove officials who obstruct criminal investigations, he said.

"All these measures demonstrate the commitment of UNTAC to a neutral political environment," he said. "UNTAC is determined to identify those responsible for attacks and bring them to justice."

Several cases are already under review, Falt said, and will be presented in court "soon."

The new measures come after Sihanouk said he was quitting all cooperation with UNTAC because the peacekeepers had not been able to halt the killings of party workers loyal to him.

In several cases where UNTAC tried to force local police to investigate crimes where witnesses said the attackers were Phnom Penh soldiers or other officials, peacekeepers were met with obstacles and no thorough investigations were carried out, the U.N. spokesman has said.

The resulting frustration in trying to get authorities to arrest themselves or their friends, coupled with the outcry from the parties being attacked, forced UNTAC to take a stronger stand against the violence.

UNTAC will supervise the detention of suspects in local jails, but "if there's a problem with that, we reserve the right to choose other means of detention," Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge has also carried out a series of massacres of ethnic Vietnamese since July. Falt said any Khmer Rouge guerrillas apprehended for such crimes in Phnom Penh-controlled territory would be tried in the Phnom Penh government courts.

In addition, Falt said U.N. civilian police had been instructed as of January 1 to increase their patrols of political party offices under threat of attack as a deterrent to crime.

Stepped-up patrols have begun in 13 provinces. In an additional eight riskier provinces, armed U.N. soldiers will help the unarmed U.N. civilian police in their patrols, Falt said.

The risky provinces include Sihanoukville, Koh Kong, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and Battambang—where the attacks have not abated despite the patrols, Falt said.

"UNTAC will pay special attention to this area," he said.

UNTAC Said Reinforcing 'Puppet Troops'

BK0801013693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] According to the people in Choam Khsan District of Preah Vihear Province, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] recently has shipped a significant quantity of armaments and ammunition to Vietnamese and puppet troops stationed in the district. The people say it is obvious that UNTAC leaders have colluded with the Vietnamese, shared their political goal, and supported their concrete actions:

1. Akashi has repeatedly declared that there is no Vietnamese presence and has allowed more than two million Vietnamese to come and live in Cambodia. Now over one million Vietnamese holding Cambodian identity cards are registering as voters in keeping with Akashi's law.

2. UNTAC has shipped supplies, ammunition, and armaments to the Vietnamese and puppets, enabling them to further attack and massacre the people in an increasingly savage and fascist manner.

3. Now UNTAC has personally carried and delivered armaments and ammunition to the Vietnamese and puppets.

The people say that UNTAC leaders are notoriously bad: They have colluded with the Vietnamese and traitorous puppets to bluntly kill the Cambodian nation and people. However, the people will not let them cut their throats at will; they will resolutely unite to defend themselves as well as the nation and people, come hell or high water.

'Necessary Measures' Urged Against KR

BK0801095793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "It Is Time to Take Necessary Measures"]

[Text] It is well known that Khmer Rouge [KR] ringleaders, especially Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, Son Sen, Ta Mok, and so on are those whose hands have been stained completely with the people's blood. Pol Pot and Ieng Sary have been sentenced to death in their absence by the Cambodian People's Court. For more than 14 years, although removed from power by the Cambodian people, taking refuge in foreign countries, and abhorred and denounced by international public opinion, those people have not given up their cruel and barbarous maneuvers in the least. Hiding under the trademark of the tripartite coalition government and playing the deceitful games about Pol Pot's resignation and about renouncing their communist party, the Khmer Rouge have made all-out efforts to achieve their grandiose ambition to return and again massacre the Cambodian people. Nonetheless, they have not been able to do so as the State of Cambodia [SOC] side, with its steadfast strength, has resolutely and successfully prevented the danger of genocide from recurring.

Inspired by the willingness to put an end to the bloody war and to the Cambodian people's sufferings and the intention of achieving national reunification, the SOC side as well as the Cambodian people on 10 September 1990 made a concession by allowing two Khmer Rouge elements, that is Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, to join the Cambodian SNC. One year later, realizing that their attempt to retake power through military means after the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia failed, the Khmer Rouge signed the peace accord in Paris with three other Cambodian parties and 18 countries.

The above possibility and concession, which constitute a donation to the Khmer Rouge, were believed by some optimistic national and international opinions to be able to at least coax the Khmer Rouge out of their cruel ambition and into taking part in elections in order to solve the Cambodian problem.

For more than one year, the Khmer Rouge have taken advantage of their membership of the SNC to reap benefits by creating obstacles to the normal peace process stipulated in the Paris accord. Using the so-called issue of the presence of remaining Vietnamese troops in Cambodia and the argument that the SNC has not had power, the Khmer Rouge have hampered every meeting—including meetings of the SNC, Mixed Military Working Group, and Technical Consultative Committee. They have also used their legal status to ship armaments and ammunition to the interior of the country in order to launch attacks to expand territory and control the population and to hold up the implementation of the accord. Some Khmer Rouge military officials in the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations have used their functions in the institution to gather intelligence for the purpose of serving their offensive attacks.

For more than one year, while other parties, especially the SOC side, have cooperated with UNTAC and have implemented the accord, the Khmer Rouge have reaped substantial political and military benefits, seriously threatening the peace process and the people's survival. Their expansion of territory has increasingly endangered the position to protect the people of the parties executing the accord, and this constitutes a threat to the process of implementing the Paris accord because when the Khmer Rouge's territory is further expanded, the UNTAC operational areas will become smaller, thus the number of voters will become reduced. Also, the Khmer Rouge have allowed neither UNTAC to enter the regions they control nor the people in their regions to vote. Worst of all, the Khmer Rouge have used the captured areas as a stepping stone for unleashing their offensive attacks and for provoking destruction, disturbance, and terrorism and gathering intelligence to serve their military maneuvers.

As a matter of fact, lately the Khmer Rouge have shelled cities and townships, menaced UNTAC's voter registration teams, shredded or burned the people's election registration cards, and warned the people not to register as voters. And they have gone so far as to take UNTAC officials hostages and threatened to kill them and to shell UNTAC posts as well.

This is clear evidence that the Khmer Rouge's participation in the SNC and their signing of the Paris accord are aimed at only circumventing international isolation and denunciation and gaining advantage from the accord and from their legal status in the SNC institution.

The Khmer Rouge are fully aware that free and fair elections to be organized and supervised by UNTAC will become a grave for them. So they are striving to do what they can to thwart the election process with the intent to destroy the Paris accord so that they will have the opportunity to make military preparations for attacks to wrest back power. And if the elections go ahead, war will certainly break out during and after the elections.

The Khmer Rouge have not only not joined the accord's implementation, but they have also accused UNTAC of siding with the SOC side and standing behind the Vietnamese. So it is obvious that the Khmer Rouge will not accept the result of the elections notwithstanding the recognition and endorsement by UNTAC and the international community. Other political parties, especially the parties which were previously allied with the Khmer Rouge, have also been prepared to reject the election result if they fail to win. Anyway, the Khmer Rouge is the sole root cause of the encumbrance and delay in the execution of the peace accord in Cambodia and also the sole source of serious danger to the Cambodian nation and people.

All in all, we are of the opinion that time for cajoling the Khmer Rouge is now over. And the Paris accord should not be allowed to become the Khmer Rouge's hostage and those perfectly implementing the accord their victims.

We earnestly call upon the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN Security Council [UNSC] to take stringent and effective measures to close the books on the Khmer Rouge's military breaches and to prevent them from expanding territory; otherwise the regions where elections are to be held will absolutely become smaller and smaller while the number of people to take part in the polls will also be reduced. To solve this issue, the UNSC should amend UNTAC's mandate in response to the stubborn and frivolous attitude of the Khmer Rouge. Besides, to allow the elections to go ahead as planned, we asked the UNSC to set a deadline according to paragraph 5 of Resolution 792 because if delay is further accorded to the Khmer Rouge, the latter will become more immodest and will cause greater danger, making the situation further deteriorate. The Khmer Rouge should not be permitted to vote at the last minute as the regions they control are not under UNTAC's supervision; they are neutral and the local people have not registered for the elections yet.

After 31 January 1993, if the Khmer Rouge continue to refuse to sincerely join the peace process, this means that they have already excluded themselves from the process. As such they will have no legal rights to remain in the SNC any longer. It is necessary to exclude them from the peace process and regard them as outlaw rebels in light of their actions. Consequently, the Khmer Rouge should not be allowed to control some regions and to have military forces and political organizations because this is tantamount to a separation of Cambodia and is absolutely unacceptable. Moreover, to the fill power vacuum that will eventually exist after the holding of the elections for a constituent assembly and before the election of a new government, we earnestly request that a presidential election be held ahead of the legislative elections so as to safeguard Cambodia's political stability and unity.

These are the most appropriate and meticulous measures to save the Cambodian people from a second genocide by the Khmer Rouge and to help the Paris accord to proceed as planned, contributing to ending the UNTAC mandate successfully.

UNTAC Spokesman on Violations of Log Ban

BK0801084493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 8 Jan 93

[by Sheri Prasso]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 8 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeepers watched more than 2,500 tropical hardwood logs cross Cambodia's borders in the first days after a New Year ban on exports, but Thai authorities were able to seal a large portion of the border and prevent further violations this week, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

But U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said that on the border with Thailand an estimated 250 kilometers (155 miles) of Cambodian territory controlled by the radical Khmer Rouge is not under U.N. control, and the number of logs passing out through that border cannot be measured.

A total of 5,783 cubic meters—or approximately 2,125 logs—were observed by U.N. peacekeepers crossing the Thai border between January 1-3, primarily at the border crossing at Choam Khsan in northern Preah Vihear province, he said.

Phnom Penh government authorities claiming to have a local contract with Thailand's BLP Import-Export Ltd "authorized these moves across the border in violation of the moratorium," Falt said.

"Warning notices were given to these (Thai) trespassers by UNTAC," the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the spokesman said.

Military authorities in Thailand have strenuously denied that the illegal crossings took place.

Since Sunday, however, no logs have crossed the Thai border in the 325-kilometer (200-mile) stretch between Laos and Aranyaprathet, Falt said.

A special U.N. enforcement inspected the border by land and by air to make sure there were no further crossings, he said.

"The Thai authorities have effectively interrupted all traffic," the spokesman said. "They closed their border as tightly as they possibly could."

If any logs were moving out of Khmer Rouge territory, UNTAC could not monitor it, he said, and any movements through Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia's waterways since January 3 were not immediately known, he said.

Up until January 3, however, U.N. peacekeepers tallied 770 cubic meters—or about 150 logs—leaving Cambodia through Vietnam's border, plus an additional 14 fully loaded trucks waiting to cross, Falt said.

Another 185 cubic meters—or about 35 logs—crossed into Laos, and at least four boats and ships "destined for travel abroad" were loaded with logs in Cambodia's rivers and seaports after the ban, Falt said.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) enacted the ban over Khmer Rouge objections in September, and the U.N. Security Council endorsed it in November as a political move to put pressure on the intransigent action.

Reacting to reports of log crossings before the United Nations confirmed them, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Wednesday that it was not obligated to enforce the ban until the United Nations verified that the other Cambodian factions are doing so.

The annoucement, the first from a faction deviating from the ban, dealt a serious blow to enforcement of the agreement.

"We know that since the 31st of December there is still exporting of logs by the other three parties," FUNCINPEC member Sam Rainsy had told AFP. "We feel it is unfair if we are the only party that respects the rule."

But Falt countered: "While we recognize that one of the parties has made it difficult to proceed with the peace process ... it is our view that that best way to overcome present difficulties is to remain actively engaged in the peace process.

Sar Kheng Addresses Sihanoukville Meeting

BK0801105193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Speech by Sar Kheng, Standing Committee member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of the interior, at 7 January national day meeting in Sihanoukville—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks; distinguished members of the presidium; respected and beloved ladies and gentlemen; respected representatives of the SRV and Russian consulates; respected heads of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] police and civil components attached to Sihanoukville:

Today is the 14th anniversary of the national day of 7 January. The chairman of the Sihanoukville People's Committee has just described in his speech the events taking place from 1975 to 1978 and underlined developments since 1979, stressing particularly the stage during which the Paris peace agreement was signed. Now, I request permission to inform you and to recall some of the bitter events [words indistinct]. As all of you know very well, from 1975 to 1978 [words indistinct] unheard of and unprecedented in the history of mankind. Nevertheless, our people suffered the worst misery, and more than 3 million of them perished in that period. Even if we do not recall it, virtually everyone of us still can vividly remember this bitter and cruel time.

In the face of such an atrocious and grievious situation, our Cambodian people deemed it necessary to stand up in order to free themselves from the danger of genocide. This was because when the genocidal Polpotists were implementing their policy of genocide in Cambodia and the entire world opinion was not unaware of that, no one dared stand up against the genocidal regime and fight to drive it out of Cambodia and save the Cambodian people from genocide. As all of us know, in the face of this situation, our patriots had to choose one of the two solutions: If we did not stand up and fight and if we did not appeal for a timely assistance from our friends, near and far, we had only one choice left, that is, to let more Cambodians—and not just 3 million—perish. Therefore, our dilemma was whether we should let more Cambodians die by not standing up and doing away with this genocide or we should accept the accusation of being a satellite, a lackey of Vietnam, a stooge of the foreigners, or a collaborator of foreign aggression. That was our dilemma. And for that reason, the fighters, the patriots with their excellencies Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen as leaders decided that although we would certainly be accused of being a foreign satellite, a foreign stooge, or a traitor who sold out the nation to foreigners, since we had only bare hands while the Khmer Rouge were equipped with all types of weaponry, and in spite of the fact that we had the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation on our side, we just could not survive by fighting with only batons, our bare knucles, or merely using our teeth against the Polpotists who were armed with artillery pieces, small firearms, tanks, cars, even planes, and all other war materiel.

If we had waited until the day we could get enough weapons and war materiel, maybe, we would not have been able to save our Cambodian people from genocide and the number of the slain would not have stopped at 3 million. Therefore, despite being accused of various villainies and called by so many unsavory names, we accepted that fate for the sake of the many Cambodian lives that we could save.

At the present, we see that there are no longer anymore Vietnamese troops or Vietnamese advisers in Cambodia. The Vietnamese forces have ended their internationalist mission in Cambodia since September 1989 and the Vietnamese advisers have ended theirs since 1988.

Now let us talk about the current situation of the agreement's implementation. In this Paris peace agreement, there are two questions to be solved for the sole objective of peace, and in order to achieve this peace, elections must be held soon. This is the objective of the agreement. But there are two major questions that need to be addressed in order to attain this goal: the military question and the political question, which is the control of the civil administration.

With regard to the military question, the peace agreement provided that thenceforth all factions must stop receiving all external aid and all countries involved must stop providing it. In other words, the donors have no right to give and the recipients have no right to accept this military aid. At the same time, the agreement also dealt with the arrangement of the armed forces, making stipulations concerning troop regroupment, disarmament, troop cantonment, and nonaggression against positions, bases, and territory controlled by other factions. This means that, according to the agreement, no attempts should be made to violate or seize zones under other factions' control. In practice, we see that with regard to this military aid so far our State of Cambodia [SOC] side has received not even a single cent, a single bullet, or a single rifle from anyone. Meanwhile, we have prepared ourselves for troop regroupment, reduction, and demobilization. We have so far demobilized 38,000 soldiers and returned them temporarily to civilian life. Later on UNTAC asked us to slow down this process because other factions have not yet begun the implementation.

Now let us look at the other factions. What happened? Regarding the acceptance of military aid, would they accept it if possible? Of course they would. At the present, they continue to accept this kind of aid and to give it, especially as far as the Khmer Rouge are concerned. We all know and still wonder that in the zones under their control along the Cambodian-Thai border, to this date, how many border checkpoints they have installed: None. This is because UNTAC has not yet secured Khmer Rouge permission to set them up. However, on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, with the permission of our SOC and Vietnam checkpoints have been set up everywhere to be manned not only with UNTAC personnel but in some places also with the forces of opposition groups. It has also been clearly demonstrated that no military aid crossed from Vietnam and Laos into Cambodia.

Now the Khmer Rouge, as I just said, continue to receive aid through the hundreds of kilometers of border with Thailand where a single checkpoint has not been installed. At the same time, the Khmer Rouge in cooperation with Thai traders have been heavily exploiting the logging and gemstone resources in Pailin. It is through this transaction that they are getting military aid because with all the money they have made they can buy arms anywhere, especially along the Cambodian-Thai border which is bereft of UNTAC control. They can buy small firearms, artillery pieces, trucks, and tanks in preparation for continued warfare in Cambodia.

With regard to the troop regroupment, demobilization, or disarmament, it should be understood that so far the Khmer Rouge have not yet been regrouped or cantoned anywhere at all and they have not demobilized or disarmed even a single soldier.

Now let us look at the present state of civil administration. The agreement stipulates that there should be a neutral political environment. In order to create this neutral political environment, the agreement stipulates that five areas should be taken into consideration. This does not mean that five ministries should be placed under UNTAC control. These areas are the national defense, foreign affairs, public security, information, and finance. Why does it talk about areas and not ministries? This is because: first, if ministries are mentioned, no one will be able to grasp all of the jurisdiction of each of these ministries, such as information or public security or foreign affairs; so the term areas is used. Second, the other side does not have ministries. If the agreement says ministries, then no one will be able to control them because there are no ministries at all. There are ministers but no one knows where their secretariats or their offices are. For this reason, the term areas was used. Control is to be placed on anyone who is working in the national defense, information, finance, or foreign affairs fields. Let us see what this control is like. Has there already been a neutral political environment? Has the control been equally applied?

The SOC faction has always cooperated closely with UNTAC in all these five areas and in other areas as well which fall under the second-and third-degree control categories. However, no such control has been conceded by the other factions. As everybody knows, no control whatsoever has been placed by UNTAC on the Khmer Rouge. It all starts from the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to comply with the agreement, to implement this agreement, and to let UNTAC place either military or civil control on them. Just this alone suffices to say that there is no so-called neutral political environment because the peace agreement does not require that a major faction should implement it more than a smaller faction. The law, whether it is in the SOC or any country in the world, never applies discriminately. There is no law that is made for just the rich or just the poor or just the bigshots or just the little people. All are equal before the law.

A few days ago we heard comments and reports over the U.S. radio concerning threats against the offices of various political parties or agents of these parties and contending that there is no neutral political environment. But they did not say that the Khmer Rouge refusal to implement the agreement constitutes the cause of the lack of a neutral political environment in Cambodia. In reality, the source of the absence of a neutral political environment stems from the Khmer Rouge. It has begun with the Khmer Rouge and is not a recent incident. It should not be alleged or charged that the neutral political environment is absent because of threats or pressures on the offices of political parties or agents of this or that political party. The SOC is doing a lot in favor of other parties. How? Since the signing of the agreement now more than 20 political parties, 23-24 parties have registered. For a population of even less than 9 million there are more than 20 parties. The United States has a population of nearly 300 million but it has only two major parties with a couple of other smaller ones. Let us not talk about China, but in France which has a population of 60-70 million there are just two or three political parties. The entire population of Cambodia is less than 9 million, perhaps a little more than 8 million counting the women, and just about 4.5 million eligible voters according to UNTAC registration records, but we have more than 20 political parties. This shows that we are excessively democratic. How many political parties did we have in the time of Prince Norodom Sihanouk? A few at first and later on only one: the Sangkum Reas Niyum.

Therefore, democratic rights and liberties in Cambodia abound at the present because our SOC, our Cambodian People's Party [CPP] has allowed them to flourish. At the same time, we have created other conditions for other political parties to conduct activities freely as they wish. Since the signing of the agreement, factions that used to be hostile to us have been allowed to come into the capital, including the leaders of the Khmer Rouge and other forces. This is the exercise of democracy in Cambodia.

The position of our SOC was made in a statement and released by his excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, in a news conference on 5 January. This position is that the SOC remains the SOC and the CPP remains the CPP, meaning that everything that the SOC has ratified, that the SOC has already adopted remains valid and that it will continue to implement the peace agreement and to closely cooperate with UNTAC. The decision that the CPP, the SOC Government follows Prince Norodom Sihanouk, supports Prince Norodom Sihanouk's presidential candidacy, and earnestly calls for the holding of the presidential elections ahead of the Constituent Assembly elections remains unchanged. We also maintain our decision to regard Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of state as in the pre-1970 period. Moreover, the SOC continues to support the prince as chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] as provided for by the Paris agreement. There is no change at all and this is our position.

Our struggle, our efforts are aimed single-mindedly toward the holding of the elections with or without the participation of the Khmer Rouge. We announced our position to exclude the Khmer Rouge from the agreement after 31 January if the Khmer Rouge fail to join the implementation of the agreement by that deadline. It is not fair that one faction which has signed the agreement but refused to implement it still continues to be maintained as a legitimate force, as a legitimate organ within the SNC. In that situation, will it be possible for the voting to take place? No, it will not be. Lately we have seen signs that the Khmer Rouge sent their agents to register for the elections at various stations. We can draw the conclusion that they constitute the forces used to sabotage the elections from within in addition to the forces used to torpedo the elections from without. Therefore, should we fail to take specific remedial measures against the Khmer Rouge, that is, against Democratic Kampuchea, we will not succeed in the process of implementing this agreement. Of course, excluding the Khmer Rouge is not desirable. This would mean that there was war before the elections and there will be war even with or without the elections. For this reason, in order to make the elections feasible, we must turn the Khmer Rouge unequivocally into insurgents now. We must exclude them now and then make preparations for the elections.

In his opinion, UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he would accept the Khmer Rouge even if they return to the elections process at the last minute. In our opinion, they should not be accepted. If this is done, first, there will not be a neutral political environment. Suppose one week before the elections the Khmer Rouge decide to join the process, will it be possible for us to control all the five areas in their zones within one week? Second, will the voter registration be completed in the Khmer Rouge zones withion one week? This means that there can be no neutral political environment. Such a decision is wrong and does not accord with the peace agreement. How? Because there is no neutral political environment. For this reason, we have made our position known. Let me reiterate it: our position remains unchanged vis-a-vis the peace agreement, meaning that we will implement it to the best of our ability; we will continue to closely cooperate with UNTAC; we will continue to consider Prince Norodom Sihanouk as we did in the past according to the decision of the CPP and SOC; and we will maintain the same position toward other factions, except the Khmer Rouge.

Laos

Educational Agreement Signed With SRV

BK0801052593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of education, sports, and cadre training in 1993.

Vietnam will send its experts to assist Laos' institute of scientific research and technological study at the secondary education level and technical training courses at the primary education level. At the same time, Vietnam will also accept a total of 35 students, researchers, and trainees to study and to train in the SRV over a period of five years. During the same period, Laos will accept five Vietnamese students and trainees to study Lao language, literature, geography, and history in Laos, based on the courses of the Vientiane Teachers Training College.

Both sides will also supply to each other newspapers and periodicals relating to education in order to promote and facilitate educational institutes in the two countries. Furthermore, both sides will also contribute to international activities related to educational, sports, and other fields.

The abovementioned cooperation plan was stipulated in the Lao-Vietnamese cooperation agreement for 1993, which was signed in Vientiane on 6 January. Representing the LPDR at the signing ceremony was Mrs. Bounpheng Mounphosai, deputy education and sports minister, while Vietnam was represented by its vice minister of education and training.

Development Project Signed With Malaysian Firm

BK0801101593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] On 6 January, a signing ceremony was held between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the Lao Timber Corporation of Malaysia on the latter's assistance to revive the agricultural and forestry development project in Sekong Province. The aim of the project is to upgrade the living conditions of the people in rural areas by growing trees, promoting continual local industry, improving land for agriculture, processing timber for export, as well as other construction and repair work.

The contract, valid for 50 years [as heard], was signed by Sian Phanthong, deputy agriculture and forestry minister of Laos, and the Lao Timber Corporation Chairman (Nik Mahathir), in the presence of a number of high-level authorities concerned from both sides. Witnessing the agreement were Sisavat Keobounphan, agriculture and forestry minister; Bountiam Phitsamai, deputy foreign economic relations minister; and Abdul Wahab bin Harun, Malaysian ambassador to the LPDR.

LFNC Chairman Greets Cuba on Anniversary

BK0801075593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] On the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, 1 January 1993, Maisouk Saisompheng, chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, sent a congratulatory telegram to the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution of Cuba [CDRC]. The message reads:

On behalf of the LFNC Central Committee and the multiethnic Lao people, we are very pleased to extend our warm greetings and best wishes to the CDRC and all the fraternal Cuban people. Throughout the past 34 years, under the correct and brilliant leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party Central Committee Politburo, the courageous Cuban people have attained great victory and success in resolutely defending the fruits of the revolution and have significantly contributed to the safeguarding of peace and security in the region and in the world. The LFNC Central Committee and the multiethnic Lao people greatly admire and are extremely delighted with all the successes achieved by the fraternal Cuban people.

On this glorious occasion, we all wish the solidarity, brotherly friendship, cooperation, and assistance between the LFNC and the CDRC and between the two peoples of Laos and Cuba to exist consistently and to improve ceaselessly forever.

Philippines

Formal Talks With Rightists To Start 15 Jan

HK0801052593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Aris R. Ilagan]

[Excerpt] The National Unification Commission (NUC) and the rightist Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan-Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People]-Young Officers Union (RAM-KSP-YOU) are set to hold formal peace negotiations by Jan 15.

This was disclosed yesterday by Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa, also an NUC member, who said that both sides are now finalizing the composition of the panels that will officially represent each group.

By Monday, Jan 11, the government representatives should already have finalized their talking points in line with the preliminary agreement signed by the NUC and RAM-KSP-YOU led by dismissed Army lieutenant colonel Gregorio Honasan and former Navy commodore Domingo Calajate last month.

"We are now preparing for the holding of the formal talks," De Villa said.

On the other hand, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Commissioner Haydee B. Yorac, chairman of the NUC, said in a statement that the commission has received a formal response from the National Democratic Front (NDF) regarding the continuation of the exploratory talks.

"Because of the complexity of the contents, the NUC is carefully studying the response and shall, within the next few days, submit its recommendations to the President," the statement said.[passage omitted]

CPP Leader Says NUC To 'Isolate' Leftists

HK0801064393 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jan 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Babette Resurreccion-Sayo with Frank Longid]

[Excerpts] Utrecht, The Netherlands—Exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison is claiming that the Ramos administration created the National Unification Commission (NUC) to isolate the leftist movement in the Philippines.

In an exclusive interview with the Chronicle, the founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) charged the NUC of peddling a "line of pacification," describing it as a "grandiloquent version" of the peace and order council which the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos formed in the 1980s as part of the counterinsurgency campaign. (Text of the interview will come out in the Chronicle National Weekly published this weekend).

His statement reflects the movement's lukewarm attitude toward the government's efforts to forge a peace pact with all the rebel groups in the country, a necessary ingredient to political and economic stability.

Recent military intelligence reports said Sison still wields a significant influence over party members, despite his five-year exile here. [passage omitted]

During the interview, Sison charged Mr Ramos of continuing the so-called "total war" policy, which his predecessor, former President Corazon Aquino, initiated to destroy the leftist movement.

He also substantiated his earlier claims that three former detainees, who were accused by the military of holding top posts in the CPP, were renegades of the movement. Recent reports indicated that an internal strife was wracking the 24-year-old party, the main target of peace initiatives undertaken by Mr Ramos.

Sison, a long-time detainee during the Marcos regime who was released by Mr Aquino when she rose to power in 1986, claimed the Ramos government was operating within several lines in its effort to defeat the insurgency.

The major line, he said, is the total war policy which seeks the "military destruction" of the CPP and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA). He blamed the policy for the existence of war in the Philippines "or for the lack of a just peace."

Another line, he added, is the formation of the NUC which he said promotes "a structure of consultations" reminiscent of Marcos' Oplan Mamamayan [Operation Plan Citizen] and Aquino's total war scheme.

A third line, he said, is "recruiting renegades and conjuring an illusion of a split." He was referring to Romulo Kintanar, Ricardo Reyes and Benjamin de Vera, who were former detainees released late last year by Mr Ramos in a confidence-building effort to boost his peace initiative. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Editorial: Khmer Rouge Sanctions Benefit Japan

BK0701091993 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 7 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Who Benefits From the Khmer Rouge Sanctions?"]

[Text] Beginning at midnight on 31 December 1992, Thailand closed all its border passes along the Thai-Cambodian border and now prohibits importing logs from Cambodia in compliance with the United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

Such an action by the United Nations at this early stage has caused damage worth billions of baht to Thai logging firms because they were unable to haul their logs into Thailand in time. Nobody can tell how the legitimate interests of Thailand in Cambodia in the long run will be affected because this depends on the situation in that country and on other factors as well.

The log export ban was imposed by the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia with support from UN Resolution No. 792/1992 and is aimed at defending the country's natural resources. All countries are honoring the ban.

The SNC made the decision on the log export ban on 22 November 1992 and the United Nations gave its support on 30 November 1992. All countries are requested to strictly observe the ban.

As a matter of fact, the whole world has been keeping a close watch on developments since the United Nations decided to take punitive actions against the Khmer Rouge on 30 November 1992 for its refusal to disarm its men and participate in the general elections scheduled to take place in May 1993.

At present, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, under the leadership of a Japanese named Yasushi Akashi, has high influence on the SNC. UNTAC workers have been deployed in different places and areas to assist implementing the peace program in Cambodia.

One cannot help but wonder why UN Resolution No. 792/1992 only prohibits exporting logs. Doesn't it mean that sawn timber can be exported?

The truth behind the whole story is mysterious. There are now over 12 Japanese sawmills operating in areas under the control of the Phnom Phen government with a total daily production capacity of 30,000 cubic meters. It should now be obvious who benefits from the log export ban.

The meeting of respresentatives of the Khmer factions on 7 December was postponed because the number of participants did not reach the quorum. The meeting was scheduled to discuss the question of gem mining in Cambodia.

If any organization in the future is able to influence the SNC to issue a ban on gem exports Thailand will again have to suffer, possibly more than it is presently suffering from prohibiting log exports.

Government Blocks Oil Supplies to Khmer Rouge

BK0801024793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Thailand has blocked supplies of oil to Khmer Rouge-held areas in keeping with the United Nations' attempt to pressure the radical group to comply with the Cambodian peace agreement, a high-ranking official said yesterday.

The official, who requested anonymity, gave no details on the extent of the ban, other than to say that it had been enforced ahead of a Commerce Ministry order, the draft of which reportedly is being forwarded to the Cabinet for approval. One official close to the issue said such a ban can also be imposed through the exercise of "administrative powers" by provincial authorities.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on November 30 called for measures to prevent the supply of petroleum products to areas occupied by a Cambodian faction not complying with the military provisions of the Paris peace agreement signed on October 23, 1991.

The Khmer Rouge continue to hold out against the disarmament, cantonment and demobilisation of their forces, or the peace agreement's second phase which went into effect in June. The Khmer Rouge have also refused to allow United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) troops to enter their zones.

The Thai Cabinet on December 8 instructed the Commerce Ministry to check the procedures that would be necessary to support the oil embargo called by the Security Council. The ministry at the same time was instructed to consider issuing an announcement in support of the call.

Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore are the main suppliers of petroleum products to Khmer Rouge areas, the high-ranking official said. Officials said they were unable to give an estimate of the amount supplied by Thailand, arguing that there was no record as procedures had been "not normal" in Khmer Rouge areas.

One informed source noted that the ban would not have drastic repercussions on the Khmer Rouge themselves as the oil products mainly fed gem mines and logging concerns operated by Thais in the radical faction's areas.

The border closure was enforced to support the ban on log exports from Cambodia which was endorsed by the UN resolution. But the border measure obtained the pull-out of gem miners and logging concerns.

Meanwhile, the high-ranking official noted that logging in Cambodia for some time had changed from one-to-one deals between a foreign entrepreneur and a Cambodian. According to the official, recent practice featured four-to-one arrangements, with all four Cambodian parties jointly dealing with any one foreign company.

The so-called "kong sey" that managed the Cambodian side of business require 70 per cent payment from loggers after the trees have been cut and are paid the remaining 30 per cent when the logs are hauled out of the site. The "kong sey" allowed for the party in control of the logging area to benefit from the payments, he added.

In a related development, the same official said Thailand had agreed to UNTAC's request to set up border checkpoints in Cambodia that would be adjacent to the 17 checkpoints inside Thai territory. What remains in question is whether UNTAC will be able to set up checkpoints in Khmer Rouge areas.

Spokesman Reports on Chuan-Mahathir Meeting

BK0701135393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Aphisit Wetchachiwa, the Prime Minister's Office spokesman, reported on this morning's discussions between Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his Malaysian counterpart Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, and on the joint meeting between Thai and Malaysian delagations at the Malaysian prime minister's office. He said the Malaysian prime minister was impressed by Thailand's sincerity in its various areas of cooperation with Malaysia, including terrorist suppression and economic cooperation, which is evidenced by the five-fold increase in combined trade volume. They also discussed cooperation in development of the triangle which borders Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Malaysia already engaged in cooperation with Singapore to effectively develop a common border area. Indonesia would be invited to discuss development of the area with Malaysia and Thailand.

On the fishing issue, Aphisit said Thailand and Malaysia discussed joint fishing and ways to discourage violations of territorial waters or overseeing fishing boats transiting the waters in good faith. On the labor issue, Malaysia had no intention to discriminate against Thai workers because it is dependent on foreign labor. It merely wanted to ensure that entry of workers and transfer of money home is legitimate. The two leaders also discussed the topic of energy, natural gas, and electricity. Thailand had expressed a desire to make purchases from Malaysia, who already had a plan to pipe gas to its northern region. They also talked about the feasibility of common use of other energy sources. Regarding Malaysia's wish to divert water from the Thepa River in Thailand, Thailand would look into this possibility, but the small volume of water available could be a problem.

According to Aphisit, Thailand supports the concept of a Southeast Asian economic cooperation program, initiated by Malaysia, because it would benefit the region. As requested by Malaysia, Thailand would help explain the concept to other countries, particularly to the Japanese prime minister who is scheduled to visit Thailand soon.

On the Cambodian problem, Thailand's clear stand is that it will render cooperation to the United Nations to bring peace to Cambodia. The Thai prime minister noted that this issue would not be easy to achieve because the important thing is that every Cambodian faction must turn to each other to solve their problems. The prime minister supports the idea of holding a presidential election in Cambodia before a general election.

On Malaysia's wish to learn Thailand's view regarding the new U.S. President, Aphisit said that Chuan's view was that the United States was likely to pay more attention to major countries than small ones. He also felt that the United States was not likely to practice trade protectionism against small countries and that the United States should direct its attention to such issues as the environment and human rights violations.

Army Chief: Media 'Playing Up' Bomb Threats

BK0801032393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit yesterday played down a number of recent bomb threats in Bangkok, saying he believed the intimidation stemmed from personal disputes that were not designed to cause fear or turmoil in the country.

Gen Wimon also accused the Press of playing up bomb threats which in some cases proved to be a hoax. He said the mastermind of the bomb threats would have set the timer on the clocks had they really wanted the bombs to explode.

Gen Wimon said he believes the plotters only wanted people to open boxes that contained the bombs.

"All these incidents are based on personal issues and nothing else," he said.

The Army chief blamed the media for playing up the intimidation campaign as a big issue which could lead to panic among the public. In some cases, Gen Wimon said that those with "mental disabilities" had placed electric wires somewhere and the Press would call this a bomb. Sometimes, people who possessed hand-grenades would put them in their personal containers and when those grenades were found the Press would turn it into another bomb story, Gen Wimon said.

"You (the press) always like to paint a pig as a tiger," he said.

The Army chief said the recent bomb blasts in Bangkok would not shake the Government's stability as the military had always supported an elected national administration. Nor was it possible that the bombings were aimed at discrediting certain ministers, he said.

Gen Wimon said that it was necessary for him to seek a court ruling on whether the Thai-language newspaper KHAO SOT was guilty of defamation as it had published a news report which tarnished the image of the military.

The newspaper earlier reported that 14 men in green uniforms had attacked a bus between Bangkok and Phet Buri and killed three passengers. According to the news report, those men announced that they were soldiers.

Gen Wimon said he has received several telephone calls from his subordinates asking him to file a lawsuit against KHAO SOT newspaper for allegedly damaging the reputation of the entire Armed Forces.

The Army chief said that if the report was aimed at attacking personally, he would accept the charge. However, he said he has already considered that the report could allegedly destroy the military institution and that legal action must be taken against the newspaper.

As for Cambodia's internal problems Gen Wimon said that peace in that country would be difficult to achieve as long as national leaders still did not put national benefits ahead of their personal gain. He said he has not yet received a report about an incident where a bus reportedly triggered a land-mine in Khukhan District of Sisaket Province near the Thai-Cambodian border yesterday morning.

The Army chief, however, said he could not say now whether the Khmer Rouge or other Cambodian factions were involved in the incident. He pledged to further investigate the incident.

Editorial Views Issue of Rice Price Supports

BK0801040593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Government in a 'no win' plight over paddy prices"]

[Text] Asked what he, if he were the government, would do to support rice prices, one economist quipped: "If I were the commerce minister I would announce on my first day in office exactly what the government cannot do. The next day I would resign."

Public opinion demands that the government take action to support paddy prices when the market is weak (although city dwellers complain fast enough if food prices rise). The truth is, without being prepared to spend huge amounts, there is little the government can do. Any commerce minister would have difficulty surviving with such illusory public hopes.

Over the years, successive governments have developed an array of policies ranging from intervention buying by the Army and Interior Ministry, to soft loans subsidised by the Bank of Thailand for exporters, millers and domestic traders. The key weapons in the government's rice policy armoury now are soft loans to farmers that effectively give them a minimum price for their paddy, and subsidies for government exports. None of these are proving very effective; none of them ever did.

The reasons for the lack of impact of these policies are well-documented by students of the rice market. The facts have not deterred governments from claiming credit when prices have strengthened. Not even Amaret Sila-on, the technocrat commerce minister in the Chatchai and Anan governments, could resist the temptation.

One of the saddest aspects of the political difficulty the Chuan Government now finds itself in is the opportunism of the Opposition. Of course it is the duty of the Opposition to criticise the government when inappropriate policies are adopted. And, of course, the farmers are genuinely suffering. But legitimate criticism by the Opposition means having better alternative policies at hand.

When they were in government and rice prices were strong, neither Chatchai Chunhawan nor Praman Adireksarn nor Banhan Sinlapa-acha found fault with the policies that the Chuan administration has now inherited. The Opposition has no alternative except to complain vigorously about low prices that it would not have been able to prevent either, and to "help" protesters.

What are the alternatives? One analyst said: "This is not a short-term problem, it needs long-term solutions." Another said: "You have to spend real money."

The long-term solutions involve helping farmers improve the quality of their rice and the yields. Poor quality, because of drought and unseasonal rainfall in late-December, appears to be a principal cause of the present dip in prices. There might also be some weakening in demand for exports, but this is a complicated and debatable issue.

If substantial amounts of money are to be spent raising domestic prices, then it must be spent in a manner that will encourage traders and millers to compete to buy more rice. That means that the subsidies must be non-selective; for, if money is handed out selectively, there is no incentive to compete for it, and the recipients can pocket the entire subsidy without passing any on to the farmers.

If some non-selective and fraud-proof means could be found to subsidise, at a flat rate, each ton farmers sell to the mills, then that would be an option. But such a scheme would not be feasible. The closest would be flat rate subsidies for every ton private exporters sell, and numerous studies show that despite sceptics' fears this would definitely raise paddy prices. But it would also cost a lot of money.

Of course direct income subsidies to farmers would also be a solution, but again leakages would reach epidemic proportions.

As many economists have pointed out, all of the present programmes are selective to some extent. The intervention buying by the Interior Ministry takes place in selected localities. The soft loans granted to millers and exporters—the "packing credit"—has repeatedly been shown to be rationed exclusively to the larger companies, particularly in the case of the mills.

The subsidised credit offered farmers by the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives is also selective and has no impact on actual paddy prices. It also encourages farmers to default on their loans and threatens to undermine what has been a successful rural credit institution.

The export subsidies are only for government sales under a byzantine system in which the Commerce Ministry buys from exporters, then asks them to store the rice and to deliver it when the ministry is ready to sell. Government-to-government sales tend to be for specific grades of rice. Only exporters dealing in the particular types and grades of rice that the ministry requires can participate in the scheme. And only those that have the warehouses.

While sales of half a million tons to Russia catch the headlines, what the Government is actually doing is strangling competition among exporters and blunting their sales skills.

Yesterday a number of traders said they had no hope of selling abroad because the Government was talking domestic prices up to levels that could not match world market prices. To export under those conditions would mean losses. But some exporters also said they were quietly buying up rice, not to sell on the world market, but to sell to the Government in the secure knowledge that the Government will use its subsidies instead of commercial expertise to export.

The refusal to listen to the economists has caused the Government to open up a minefield. Some exporters warn that the Government is going to become the major exporter, not through any particular skill, but because of the desperation to be seen to be taking action. But that desperation also opens up huge possibilities of corruption as exporters gain insider knowledge of the deals and position themselves so as to maximise their chances of pocketing the subsidies. No recent large government sale has been free from scandal. Two come to mind immediately: the Iran deal a few years ago, and the more recent huge sale to Russia. Even if the government escapes the wrath of demonstrating farmers, there is still likely to be trouble ahead.

Exporters Fault Rice Price Support Program

BK0801042793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 93 pp 17, 26

[Text] Leading rice exporters claim the Government's rice price support programme will fail to shore up paddy prices unless an attempt is made to boost private sector exports. Exporters contacted by BUSINESS POST warn that the Government's attempt to sign large rice deals with countries such as Russia may damage Thai rice exports.

Some large-scale exporters brand as a mistake the statement by Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon that a loss of about one billion baht will be incurred in the Government's effort to export 1.2 million tons of low grade rice on a government-to-government basis. This comment will adversely affect Thai rice exports worldwide, they claim.

"The Government will not only face a heavy loss from the rice sales, but the measure will be a major obstacle for Thai rice exporters in dealing with foreign buyers," said one major exporter who declined to be named.

Most Thai rice exporters are believed to have delayed concluding low-grade rice deals with foreign buyers because they cannot risk a heavy loss based on intergovernment prices. Although some major exporters have contracts to ship much high-grade rice abroad to countries such as Iran and Malaysia, a few have succeeded in selling low-grade rice abroad.

"The Government is concentrating on boosting paddy prices because of political worries. It is overlooking some effects on the exports side," he said. He said there is no denying that the Government must sell low-grade rice at a low price to compete with some major competitors, especially Vietnam.

The Government may have to incur high risks in providing long-term credit for foreign buyers in financial difficulty, such as Russia, which wants to buy 500,000 tons of Thai rice on long-term credit. However, the source said this does not mean that the Government must play such a high role that it takes over all rice deals from exporters.

Although the Government is not intending to compete with Thai exporters, it is impossible for them to sell their product abroad as the Government's price. Exporters will switch to merely supplying rice to the state, the exporter said.

Exporters question the value of sending rice trade missions abroad because they believe the demand is not large enough to warrant this step.

Some suggest the Government should try to help Thai rice exporters compete in the world market rather than handle sales itself. They agree with Thailand Development Research Institute president Amma Siamwalla, who proposed that the Commerce Ministry should encourage rice exporters to sell at a low price and, in return, receive compensation.

"This would be an effective way to boost exports but must be considered further to prevent any claim that it is to favour some groups of exporters," the exporter said.

Some exporters believe that although paddy prices have increased since the Government promised to do everything to shore up domestic rice prices, the success will be short-term because exports are the real answer.

Vietnam

Radio Reviews Progress in Trade Balance for 1992

BK0801113793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Report by station correspondent Hong Thang: "1992 saw improvements in our country's import and export"]

[Summary] "Our country's 1992 export and import values reached over U.S.$2.45 billion and U.S.$2.38 billion respectively—an increase of 19 percent and four percent respectively over 1991. The volume of all the main goods such as crude oil, rice, marine products, coffee, rubber, tin, anthracite, and garments increased considerably. Thus, after many consecutive years of trade imbalances with imports four times as large than exports, 1992 was the first year that Vietnam achieved a trade balance. More so, the value of its exports was higher than imports. Particularly, it succeeded in reducing the quantity of imported consumer goods."

Various export-import problems remain to be tackled. But, with these achievements, we can say that "in 1992, despite many difficulties such as upheavals in the traditional market, failure to restore trade ties with all the countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe, and the continued U.S. trade embargo, the Vietnamese trade sector overcame various ordeals."

Apart from crude oil, rice, and marine products which have high export values, we have also been able to establish a firm foothold for goods such as garments, coffee, anthracite, sliced manioc, and so forth on the world market.

"Not long ago, Vietnam ranked 23d among the world's largest coffee-exporting countries. Now it ranks 10th and 3d in the Asia-Pacific region. In 1992, despite a serious shortage of funds and an unprecedented plunge in coffee prices on the world market, Vietnam succeeded in exporting over 18,000 tons of raw coffee, attaining its higher-ever target."

Discussing the question of improving the quality of coffee products, Mr. Doan Trieu Nhan, director-general of the Union of Coffee Enterprises, said:

"We are trying to improve our product quality as this plays a decisive role in winning customers and in fetching good prices. The better the quality of our product, the higher the price will be."

As for the garments sector, "after losing all its contracts with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the sector was believed to be on the brink of bankruptcy. In late 1990 and early 1991 many tailoring factories, including large ones such as the 10th, Thang Long, and Dap Cap, had to reduce its work force because of underemployment. However, the tailoring sector promptly recovered. In 1992 it succeeded in achieving an export value of 130 million U.S. dollars, an increase of 25 percent over its planned target."

In 1992, attention was also paid to developing traditional goods such as handicrafts and fine art objects and farm and indigenous products. Noteworthy is that in 1992 the Rattan and Bamboo Handicraft Export General Corporation earned over U.S. $11 million for the country. It turned in over 5 billion dong to the state budget and was able to guarantee employment for tens of thousands of workers.

Mr. Nghiem Minh Le, director-general of the Rattan and Bamboo Handicraft Export-Import General Corporation, revealed:

"Despite a challenging market, the rattan and bamboo handicraft sector was still able to maintain its firm foothold. Whether or not the sector can survive and flourish will depend chiefly on the efforts of producers in caring for product quality."

In talking about import-export activities of various provinces, we cannot help praising Ho Chi Minh City for its efforts to find markets and build its export potential. "In 1992, the city earned 450 million U.S. dollars in exports, an increase of nearly 50 percent over 1991."

In a conversation with us, Mr. Do Hoang Hai, director of the Ho Chi Minh City foreign trade corporation, said:

"We are trying to secure a firm foothold for our shrimp and craft products in the world market."

"Our 1992 export value reflects our capability to progress on the economic front. However, for a country with a nearly 70 million people, the export value of U.S.$2.45 billion is indeed small. Our export and import policy still has many loopholes. This is one of the many reasons for corruption and smuggling." Smuggled goods were reported to have caused great difficulties to a not-inconsiderable number of production sectors and business organizations.

"Government measures to reestablish order in export and import and to fight corruption and smuggling are creating favorable conditions for various honest production and business establishments to increase its output and export values in 1993. This will help achieve various socioeconomic targets approved by the Ninth National Assembly at its second session."

Vice Premier Receives ROK's Daewoo Delegation

BK0701141193 Hanoi VNA in English 1250 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—Vice Premier Phan Van Khai yesterday received a delegation of the Daewoo Corporation of the Republic of Korea led by its Chairman Kim Wu-chong which is here to attend the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a high-tech industrial area and a joint venture named Orion-Hanel between Daewoo and Hanel (Hanoi Electrics Company) to produce kinescopes at Sai Dong village, Gia Lam District of Hanoi.

At the reception, Mr. Kim Wu-chong briefed the vice-premier about the cooperation over the past year between Daewoo and Hanoi and the new investment projects of the corporation in Vietnam in the coming years. He expressed his hope that the Vietnamese Government would provide the necessary help in the implementation of those projects.

Vice Premier Phan Van Khai welcomed the cooperation of Daewoo and expressed his hope that the corporation will invest in other fields of Vietnam's economy.

Orion-Hanel is the largest foreign invested factory in the electronic branch of Vietnam so far.

Do Muoi, Vo Van Kiet Receive Group

BK0801015693 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—A delegation of the Daweoo Corporation of the Republic of Korea led by its

Chairman Kim Wu-Chong has paid a two-day visit to Hanoi to attend the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a hi-tech industrial area and a joint-venture factory making picture tubes. During its stay the delegation paid a courtesy visits to party General Secretary Do Muoi and Premier Vo Van Kiet and had working sessions with the Hanoi mayor. It left Hanoi today.

Payment Agreement Signed With Laos

BK0701144593 Hanoi VNA in English 1429 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—A payment agreement on imports, exports and services for the 1993-95 period was signed here today between Vietnam and Laos.

Signatories were Le Van Chau, deputy governor of the State Bank of Vietnam and his Lao counterpart Leuane Sombounkhan. Under the agreement, all payments for imports, exports and services between Vietnamese and Lao businesses will be arranged in freely convertible currencies through commercial banks of the two countries. In cases of necessity, Vietnamese and Lao currencies will be used on the basis of mutual agreement between the enterprises involved and in line with the rule of each country and current international payment practice.

The agreement is a component of the two countries' policy of cooperation on economy, culture, science and technology. It takes effect as from today and will last till Dec. 31, 1995.

Education, Training Delegation Visits Laos

BK0801065193 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 8—A delegation of the Ministry of Education and Training led by its Deputy Minister Tran Xuan Nhi paid a working visit to Laos from Jan. 3-7.

The delegation had talks with a delegation of the Ministry of Education and Sports led by its Deputy Minister Bounpheng Mounphosai on a programme of educational cooperation between the two ministries, especially in the field of training. They also signed a protocol on cooperation for 1993 and the coming years.

On Jan.6, the Vietnamese guests were received by Saman Vignaket, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and minister of education and sports, in which the Lao host expressed his belief that the relations of cooperation and mutual assistance between the two ministries and countries will further consolidate and develop.

Tran Duc Luong Directs Industrial Seminar

BK0701084593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Authorized by the government, the Ministry of National Defense on 2 January held a state-level seminar on work related to industrial promotion. The seminar was held under the direct guidance of Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong.

Based on various aspects of national defense and the people's livelihood, the views expounded at the seminar focused on elucidating and unifying all conceptions and viewpoints concerning the issue of industrial promotion in our country.

The seminar touched on the need to achieve a balance between the requirements of national defense and the existing potential in our national industry, as well as dealing with the relations of profits in preparing industrial promotion, measures to solve contradictions that may arise, and specific steps in the process of institutionalizing the state aparatus toward the task of preparing industrial promotion, and so forth.

In his speech at the conclusion of the seminar Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong said:

Based on the general plan and strategy, the task of preparing industrial promotion must be carried out in such a way as to formulate concrete plans for and define the extent and requirements of industrial promotion under each circumstance. These plans must be practical and meet the objectives of industrial promotion.

Together with various sectors and factories, the Ministry of National Defense must make necessary computations so that more products can be turned out in support of national defense. Right now we must reexamine the system of law-governing documents, modify state policies, and unify work methods in order to achieve practical results and effects.

In various systems, mechanisms, and policies, it is necessary to look for or select practical plans, solutions, and objectives to ensure minimum expenses and substantial results.

Cuban Ambassador Gives National Day Reception

BK0701150193 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Tania Maceira Delgado gave a reception here this evening on the occasion of the 34th National Day of Cuba (Jan. 1). Her guests included Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Truong My Hoa, General Vo Nguyen Giuap and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Nguyen Cong Tan.

Ambassador Tania Maceira Delgado and her guests raised toasts to the achievements made by the Vietnamese and Cuban peoples in national construction and defence, and to the further consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between the two parties, states and peoples in the interests of each country and for peace in the world.

Organizations Mark Cambodia's National Day

BK0701145393 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 7—A get-together was held here this morning by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisations (UPSFO) and the Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association (VCFA) to mark the 14th National Day of Cambodia. It was attended by VCFA President Vu Mao, UPSFO Secretary General Nguyen Trung Hieu, and Cambodian Charge D'affaires A.I Chhong Toeun. Speaking on this occasion, Vu Mao and Chhong Toeun brought out the Cambodian people's achievements in national reconstruction and their contributions to the political solution to the Cambodian issue. They proposed toasts to further consolidation and development of the friendship, solidarity and coperation between Vietnam and Cambodia. A similar function was also observed in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday.

Nguyen Manh Cam Meets Nghe An Provincial Voters

BK0701140393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Following the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session, the deputies from Nghe An Province returned to their localities and briefed their voters on the results of this session.

At the Vinh city, Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs and a deputy to the Ninth National Assembly, reported to voters of the Ha Huy Tap ward and Hung Hoa village on the results of the assembly session, and at the same time, analyzed the successes and the difficulties encountered by the country in the cause of socioeconomic construction and development, as well as the successes and prospects of our party in foreign relations.

At various meetings, the voters expressed their joy over the many achievements scored by our country last year and, at the same time, showed their profound concern over the existing questions of fighting corruption, maintaining social order, guaranteeing political stability, and finding jobs for the labouring people.

Ly Son District Established in Quang Ngai Province

BK0801102593 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Ly Son Island, which lies more than 20 nautical miles northeast of Quang Ngai Province with a natural area of nearly 1,000 hectares and with more than 16,000 people living on fishing and planting onions and garlic, was an administration unit of Binh Son District.

In order to intensify the direct leadership of the province's party committee and administration over isolated islands to gradually solve the demands of socioeconomic development and to transfer islands into military defense outposts, and based on Quang Ngai People's Committee's suggestion, the Council of Ministers issued Decision 337 to establish Ly Son District under the Quang Ngai People's Committee. This important event marks a new stage of development for Ly Son Island. Quang Ngai Province now has 12 districts and towns.

On 1 January 1993, a ceremony was held to announce the establishment of Ly Son Island District with the participants of the province leading comrades and cadres, soldiers, and people of the island. To welcome this important event, the Ly Son people held a boat racing contest which attracted thousands of spectators.